THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS
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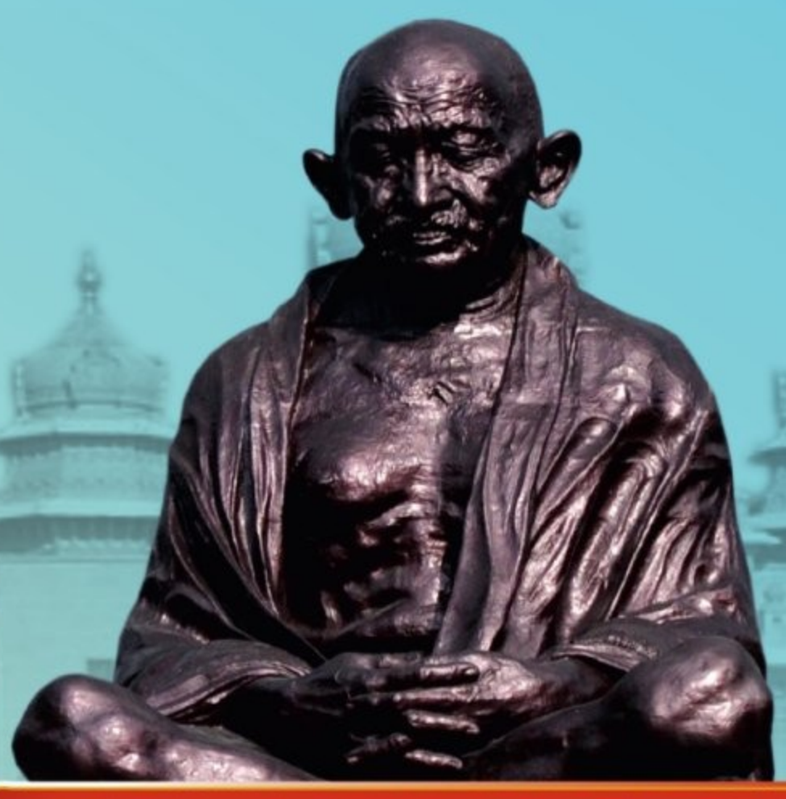
POPE URGES 'ALL PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS' TO SILENCE ARMS

Pope Francis in his traditional Christmas message on Wednesday urged "all people of all nations" to find courage during this Holy Year "to silence the sounds of arms and overcome divisions" plaguing the world, from the Middle East to Ukraine, Africa to Asia. "I invite every individual, and all people of all nations... to become pilgrims of hope, to silence the sounds of arms and overcome divisions," the Pope said.

Department of Information and Public Relations

1924-2024
BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA

GANDHI BHARAT



Join us in Belagavi tomorrow!

Centenary Celebrations of the Historic Belagavi Congress Convention

UNVEILING THE STATUE OF
FATHER OF THE NATION
MAHATMA GANDHI

Date : 27.12.2024 • Time: 10.30 AM • Venue: Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, Belagavi

It's time to celebrate 100 years of the historic Congress Convention held at Belagavi in 1924. This was the only convention presided over by Mahatma Gandhi and it played a prominent role in the freedom struggle. In Remembrance the Government of Karnataka is installing a Statue of Mahatma Gandhi in front of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha.

Unveiling of the Statue
Sri Mallikarjun Kharge
Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha

August Presence
Sri Rahul Gandhi
Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha

Presided by
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Chief Guests

Sri Basavaraj S. Horatti
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council

Sri U.T. Khader
Hon'ble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Honoured Guests

Sri H.K. Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism

Sri Satish Jarakiholi
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Belagavi District In-charge Minister

Smt. Laxmi R. Hebbalkar
Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Differently Abled and Senior-Citizens Empowerment

Sri Jagadish S. Shettar
Hon'ble MP, Belagavi Lok Sabha Constituency

Kum. Priyanka Jarakiholi
Hon'ble MP, Chikkodi Lok Sabha Constituency

Sri Chalavadi T. Narayanaswamy
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition, Karnataka Legislative Council

Sri R. Ashoka
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition Karnataka Legislative Assembly

Special Invitees : All MPs from Karnataka State and All MLAs & MLCs of Karnataka State

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Our Karnataka Guarantee Karnataka

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Anna Bhagya – 10kg Free Food Grains (per person / per month)
Gruha Jyothi – Up to 200 Units of Free Electricity to each home
Gruha Lakshmi – ₹2000 per month to female head of the family
Yuva Nidhi – ₹3000 Per month for Graduates | ₹1500 Per month for Diploma Holders

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CMofKarnataka https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/

karnataka information

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

02 THURSDAY 26.12.2024 BENGALURU

GANDHI BHARATH
Gandhi Presiding Belagavi AICC Session
100 Year

A SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE

GANDHI BHARAT

CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF 1924 BELGAUM CONGRESS AND THE PATH TO SWARAJ

GANDHI'S BOLD STEP
TOWARDS NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

In September 1923, the All-India Congress Committee held a special session in Delhi, lifting the ban on Council-entry. Swarajists won many Legislative Council elections, but their success threatened Congress unity. Gandhi, still in jail, was absent at the 38th Congress session in Kakinada (Dec 1923-Jan 1924), where Mohamed Ali presided. The Ali Brothers worked tirelessly for unity, leading to a compromise between the Congress factions. This foundation was solidified at the Belgaum session under Gandhi's leadership.

At the Kakinada session, it was decided that the 39th Congress session would be held in Karnataka, with Belgaum ultimately chosen after a vote and Gandhi's intervention. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, with ties to key national leaders, played a pivotal role in Belgaum's selection. Belgaum had been involved in several nationalist activities, including hosting the 16th Bombay Provincial Conference, and Deshpande helped establish Gandhi-inspired institutions in the area.

In 1924, after Gandhi's release from jail, he proposed his Swaraj Plan to the A.I.C.C. in June, which included compulsory spinning, adherence to Congress directives, boycotts, and condemnation of political murder.

Despite opposition, compromise resolutions were passed. Following Hindu-Muslim unrest, Gandhi fasted for 21 days in Delhi to restore harmony. He then agreed to preside over the Belgaum session, which took place on December 26-27, 1924, after further efforts to promote communal unity.

Gandhi accepted the presidency of the Congress, driven by his sense of duty, commitment to unity, and belief in mutual toleration.

In his article "May God Help," he expressed his willingness to lead despite differences with educated India. Gandhi emphasised the importance of Congress members practicing unity, non-violence, respect for all religions, and addressing issues like untouchability, aiming to nuture national cooperation and mutual respect.

GANDHI'S BELAGAVI MOMENT

Belagavi holds a cherished place in India's history as the site of Mahatma Gandhi's sole presidency of the Indian National Congress. This remarkable event, held in December 1924, not only highlighted Gandhi's leadership but also galvanised the nationalist movement in Karnataka and beyond.

The 1924 Belagavi Congress Session

The Congress session, held from December 26 to 28, was attended by around 17,000 delegates from across the country. It was an unparalleled gathering that brought together influential leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Maulana Azad, and Gangadharrao Deshpande. For Gandhi, this was the first and only time he presided over the Congress, marking a significant moment in his political journey.

A Legacy Built on Prior Connections

Gandhi's association with Belagavi was not confined to the 1924 session. His visits to the region began in 1916, when he accompanied Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Over the years, his trips became more frequent and purposeful, including stops in November 1920 to address public meetings and later visits in 1927 and 1934. His enduring commitment to the city was encapsulated in his famous declaration: "Except for my death, nothing can prevent me from visiting Belagavi."

Honouring Belagavi's Role in India's Struggle for Independence

The session's meticulous organisation reflected the determination and unity of the freedom movement. A grand 70-foot entrance gate, a temporary railway station named "Vijaya Nagara," and a specially dug well called "Pampa Sarovar" were part of the extensive preparations. Around 250 huts were erected to house delegates who arrived from regions as far apart as Quetta, Burma, Kashmir, and Kerala.

Impact on the Freedom Struggle

The Belagavi session left an indelible mark on the nationalist movement. It inspired young people to join the freedom struggle, nurtured unity among various political factions, and intensified nationalist activities in Karnataka. The event became a catalyst for collective action, highlighting the significance of regional contributions to the broader independence movement.

REMEMBERING A HISTORIC MOMENT

Today, Belagavi honours this extraordinary chapter of history through Veerasoudha, a memorial built at the session's original site. The Belagavi Congress session stands as a defining moment in India's journey to independence, exemplifying Gandhi's firm dedication and the power of unity in the face of colonial rule.

Padayatras, Five Guarantees, Inspired by Gandhiji

Mahatma Gandhi's influence on the Congress party is undeniable. From organisational values to welfare schemes, Gandhiji's legacy is deeply embedded in the party. The Congress today continues to uphold Gandhian values, with initiatives like land reforms, rural employment, Panchayat Raj, and MGNREGA, all reflecting his vision. Recently, the Five Guarantee schemes launched by the Karnataka government pay tribute to Gandhiji. Coincidentally, the schemes were announced a year before the 100th anniversary of the historic Belagavi session.

Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, and Mallikarjun Kharge's commitment to Gandhian values has made these schemes a reality. The five schemes—Anna Bhagya, Shakthi, Gruhalakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, and Yuva Nidhi—are an honest attempt to fulfill Gandhiji's dreams for women, the poor, youth, and marginalised communities.

Gandhiji once said, "Poverty is the worst form of violence." The Anna Bhagya scheme provides food to over 4.08 crore people daily, costing the government over Rs 8500 crore.

Gandhiji believed women could achieve as much as men if given equal opportunities. The Shakthi and Gruha Lakshmi schemes empower women, with Shakthi offering over 300 crore free bus rides and Gruha Lakshmi providing Rs 2,000/month to women heads of households. To date, 1.21 crore women have received over Rs 25,000 crore.

Gruha Jyothi offers free electricity up to 200 units, helping 1.6 crore people fight rising costs, costing over Rs 9,500 crore. The Yuva Nidhi scheme benefits 1.82 crore youth with unemployment support.

Despite debates over the economic viability of these schemes, the Karnataka government has effectively managed finances and increased capital expenditures. Welfare cannot be viewed purely through an economic lens—the state must provide for its citizens.

Though initially criticised, Karnataka's governance model is now a national role model, adopted by several states, including BJP-led ones. The Guarantee schemes are popular, empowering women and youth. The Shakthi scheme is helping women break barriers with free bus rides, while Gruha Lakshmi allows women to manage finances independently. Yuva Nidhi supports youth finding their footing in the job market.

While empowering marginalised sections, the Congress also works to preserve India's social fabric. Gandhiji faced communal tensions as Congress President in 1924; today, the country faces similar challenges.

The Congress Party's Bharat Jodo Yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, echoes Gandhiji's fight against communalism. Rahul Gandhi's months-long walk across the country aimed to counter divisive forces and restore social harmony.

Whether through the Ballari Padayatra, Mekedatu Padayatra, or Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress remains committed to non-violence. Unlike other parties focusing on emotional politics, Congress believes in the politics of livelihood. Gandhiji would be proud that the party he led 100 years ago continues to uphold his values through welfare schemes and efforts for communal harmony.

LEADERS REFLECT ON GANDHI'S LEGACY

At the Belagavi session under Gandhiji's leadership, the first voice for the integration of Karnataka was strongly articulated. In this context, the gathering is also significant for the Kannadigas.
- Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

The freedom movement started from Belagavi. Again, from this very land, this programme is being organised to decide in which direction the country should be taken. In the current context, the country's major leaders will discuss the challenges we are facing and how to fight them.
- D.K. Shivakumar, President, KPCC, Deputy Chief Minister

Through the centenary program of the National Congress session under Gandhiji's leadership, we will send a new message to the country. We will respond appropriately to those who are distorting Gandhiji's principles and ideals through the "Gandhi Bharat" programme.
- Randeep Singh Surjewala, General Secretary, AICC

From the Belagavi Congress Working Committee meeting the country's politics and the Congress party's struggle will take a new shape. Similarly, the moment to celebrate the 100th year of Gandhiji's presidency is a matter of pride for every Congress member.
- K.C. Venugopal, General Secretary, AICC

Today, Kharge holds the position that Gandhi once adorned

GANDHI, who led the struggle for independence, took charge of the Congress and carried the flame of the movement to new heights. Back then, it seemed like an adventurous effort, akin to swimming against the massive waves of challenges—uniting everyone and facing the enemy.

In 1924, Gandhi served as the president of the Congress. Two decades later, with the intensifying demand for independence, it appears the spark ignited by Gandhi in Belgaum still holds significant relevance.

In such a vast nation, spreading the inevitability and necessity of independence, peaceful struggle, and organisation were not easy tasks. The leaders who took charge had no soft cushions to rest on. There were thorns at every turn, but Gandhi stood firm against all odds.

The British put in considerable effort to suppress the struggle, but Gandhi's challenge was to lead the movement forward, intensify it, and confront those efforts. His leadership made a significant difference.

Issues such as the abolition of untouchability, rejection of foreign clothes, prohibition of cow slaughter, and the ban on alcohol were all part of the movement, which was remarkable. There were many occasions when consensus was difficult, yet Gandhi argued that such decisions were necessary to achieve the larger goal, winning the hearts of millions.

Now, Mallikarjun Kharge, a Kannadiga, holds the same important position that Gandhi once did, and it is a matter of pride for the nation. A hundred years after Gandhi took on this responsibility, a Kannadiga has now assumed such a crucial role.

Kharge now has the responsibility of protecting the Constitution and fighting against communal polarisation. He has strengthened the Congress's position across the country, taking responsibility for uniting the nation to fight for its future. He has also achieved several victories and, in doing so, boosted the Congress's confidence.

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ZELENSKYY BERATES PUTIN OVER 'INHUMANE' ATTACK ON CHRISTMAS

Russia targeted Ukraine's power infrastructure with more than 180 missiles and drones in a massive Christmas Day attack on Wednesday

RUSSIA LAUNCHED 78 MISSILES, 106 DRONES: KYIV

"Putin deliberately chose Christmas to attack. What could be more inhumane?" Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. As many as 78 air, ground, and sea-launched missiles, 106 Shaheds and other types of drones were used in the strikes that targeted multiple cities, Ukraine's air force said. It claimed to have intercepted 59 missiles and 54 drones

ONE POWER PLANT WORKER KILLED IN DONETSK

- This is the 13th large-scale strike on Ukraine's energy system this year. Ukraine's biggest private energy company, DTEK, said Russia struck one of their thermal power plants in Donetsk, killing an employee
- Ukraine said one of the missiles fired by Russia passed through the airspaces of Moldova and NATO member Romania | P13

5 lakh

PEOPLE ARE WITHOUT POWER IN KHARKIV REGION AFTER RUSSIAN STRIKES

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Taliban vows to hit back after Pak strikes kill 46 in Afghanistan

AGENCIES

AFGHAN Taliban on Wednesday said 46 people were killed in Pakistani airstrikes in Barmal in eastern Afghanistan and vowed to retaliate. Pakistan carried out rare airstrikes inside Afghanistan on Tuesday, which Islamabad said targeted members of the Pakistani Taliban. Pakistani security officials said the strikes were on "terrorist hideouts" and at least 20 terrorists of the Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), were killed.

But the Afghan Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed most of the dead were children and women. Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani envoy and lodged a protest. The Afghan Defence Ministry vowed to retaliate, saying, "The Islamic Emirate will not leave this cowardly act unanswered."

The strikes come after the TTP claimed a raid on a Pakistan army outpost that killed 16 soldiers. A Pakistani official said the attack was "a significant trigger" for Tuesday's strikes, which also come amid a rise in the number of TTP attacks in Pakistan, especially in its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces.

ADIEU

M T VASUDEVAN NAIR

Legendary Malayalam writer and Padma Bhushan awardee M T Vasudevan Nair, 91, passed away on Wednesday | P9

■ RUSSIA-BOUND JET CHANGED PATH BEFORE CRASH
■ 29 SURVIVE; 16 RUSSIANS AMONG 67 ON BOARD

38 KILLED IN KAZAKH JETLINER CRASH

The wreckage of Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190 lays on the ground near Aktau airport | AP

AGENCIES

AT least 38 people were killed after a passenger jet flying from Azerbaijan to Russia crashed near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan on Wednesday, according to Kazakhstan officials. There were 67 people on board, including five crew members. Both pilots of the flight were also reportedly killed in the accident. A total of 29 survivors, including two children, have been hospitalised.

The plane was originally scheduled to travel from the Azerbaijani capital of Baku to the Russian city of Grozny in the North Caucasus. According to Azerbaijan Airlines, the Embraer 190 aircraft made an emergency landing 3 km from Aktau. Reports said the pilot may have chosen to divert to Aktau after a bird strike on the aircraft led to 'an emergency situation on board'.

The airline said 42 passengers were Azerbaijani citizens, 16 Russian nationals, six Kazakhstani, and three Kyrgyzstani citizens.

Flight-tracking service FlightRadar24 said in an online post that the aircraft had faced 'strong GPS jamming' which 'made the aircraft transmit bad ADS-B data', referring to the information that allows flight-tracking websites to follow planes in flight. Russia has been blamed in the past for jamming GPS signals in the region.

Reuters reported that the crash came shortly after drone strikes hit southern Russian areas not far from Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan and the nearest Russian airport on the plane's flight path was closed on Wednesday morning. FlightRadar24 data showed the aircraft making what appeared to be a figure-eight once nearing the airport in Aktau, its altitude moving up and down substantially in the last minutes.

Footage circulating online appeared to show the aircraft making a steep descent before smashing into the ground in a fireball. Other footage showed part of its fuselage ripped away from the wings and the rest of the aircraft, lying upside in the grass.

'BAD WEATHER'

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said that it was too soon to speculate on the reasons for the crash. "The information provided to me is that the plane changed its course due to worsening weather conditions and headed to Aktau airport, where it crashed on landing" Aliyev said at a news conference.

MODI SWIPE

'Cong ignored contributions of Ambedkar'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

AMID the Congress' protests against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Dr B R Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday sought to turn the tables on the Grand Old Party accusing it of denying Baba Saheb credit for his contribution to the development of water resources in the country.

"Baba Saheb was the first to understand the importance of river... He was a visionary... contributing to creation of dams," Modi said while addressing a gathering in Khajuraho, after laying the foundation of the Ken Betwa river linking project. Without naming India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Modi said: "Out of intoxication of giving credit to just one individual the Congress never gave credit to Baba Saheb for his water conservation efforts and visionary thinking that led to creation of big dams."

Referring to the development projects carried out by the government of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who envisioned the national river-linking initiative in 2002, Modi said Vajpayee was a teacher for many. Modi also released a commemorative postal stamp and coin to mark Vajpayee's birth centenary.

Noting that the Ken-Betwa project will open gateways of prosperity and development for the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, Modi alleged Vajpayee's efforts to address water related challenges were side-lined after 2004 by the Congress.

PM Narendra Modi during foundation stone-laying ceremony of Ken-Betwa River Linking Project, in Khajuraho on Wednesday | PTI

It was Dr Ambedkar's vision which guided the major river valley projects in the country and the Central Water Commission was established due to his efforts

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Project poses threat to tiger reserve: Cong

New Delhi: The Congress on Wednesday said the Ken-Betwa river linking project poses a serious threat to the biodiversity-rich Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. In a social media post, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the project will submerge the core area of tiger reserve, destroy vulture habitats, and a large number of felling of trees

Mega Congress event in B'gavi begins today

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR/SUNIL PATIL @ Belagavi

HUNDRED years ago on this day, Mahatma Gandhi gave a call to the youth to participate in the freedom struggle during the 1924 Congress Session, which he presided over, here.

Inspired by this, a large number of people from the region joined the freedom struggle and many of them laid down their lives for the country's Independence. Belagavi city has been decked up for the two-day event to mark the centenary of the 1924 Congress session. While this session gave a new direction to the freedom struggle, the Congress party believes that its CWC meet to be chaired by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge at the same venue, Veera Soudha, would give a fillip to the country's politics and help strengthen the party.

According to KPCC working president DK Shivakumar, top leaders of the party will decide the agenda of the CWC meeting to be held at Veera Soudha.

A public meeting to be held on Friday at the CPEd Ground has been named as "Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim and Jail Samvidhan". "We have named the venue as Mahatma Gandhi Navanagar," he said. P6

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

CANADIAN COLLEGES UNDER ED SCANNER

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) is probing the alleged role of some Canadian colleges as well as Indian entities in a money laundering case linked to the trafficking of Indians into the US through the Canada border, officials said.

The ED took up the probe after a four-member Indian family hailing from Gujarat froze to death while trying to cross the Canada-US border in January 2022. The ED case is based on an FIR by Ahmedabad Police against main accused Bhavesh Ashokbhai Patel and others, who allegedly arranged student visas for those willing to enter the US illegally.

A senior ED official said the racket charged ₹55-60 lakh per person. As part of the probe, the ED conducted searches in Mumbai, Nagpur, Gandhinagar, and Vadodara. It found an entity based in Mumbai and another in Nagpur were offering admission for Indians in foreign universities on a commission basis.

The ED said about 25,000 students are being referred by one entity and 10,000 students by the other to various colleges outside India every year. Over 150 Canadian colleges have an agreement with one entity and 112 with another. Their involvement is being probed, the ED said.

EXPRESS READ

3 soldiers from K'taka among 5 killed in J&K accident

Belagavi/Udupi: Of the five soldiers of the 11th Battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry who died after their vehicle fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Balnoi area in Poonch sector on Tuesday, three hailed from Karnataka. The soldiers from Karnataka have been identified as Subedar Dayanand Tirkannavar (44) from Belagavi district, Sepoy Mahesh Nagappa Marigonda (25) from Bagalkot district, and Lance Havaldar Anoop Poojary (33) from Udupi district | P9

In major reshuffle, Manipur CS is new higher edu secy

New Delhi: The Union Government appointed Vineet Joshi, chief secretary of ethnic violence-hit Manipur, as the higher education secretary, while senior IAS officer Arunish Chawala has been appointed the revenue secretary | P11

3 in custody for throwing egg at Munirathna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

MISCREANTS threw an egg at Rajarajeshwari Nagar BJP MLA Munirathna while he was leaving the venue of a party function at Nandini Layout here on Wednesday. Police have taken three people into custody in this connection.

The MLA, who was treated at KC General Hospital in Malleswaram after the incident, alleged that it was an acid attack and a "murder bid".

The 60-year-old MLA was walking towards his car after participating in the function to mark the 100th birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the BJP office when the incident took place. Policemen at the venue swung into action and took the MLA to a safe place. "The incident happened around 11.30am at Lakshmi Devi Nagar in Laggere. While walking from the BJP office towads his car on Studio Road, the egg was thrown at him from about 15 metres. The MLA then went to hospital," Saidulu Adavath, DCP (North), told reporters.

RR Nagar BJP MLA Munirathna after an egg was thrown at him in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Munirathna lauded the police for saving his life and claimed that an officer advised him to get into his car immediately after the function as there was an intelligence report about a possible attack on him.

Clarifying that there was no such intelligence report, the DCP said, "Our inspector told him (the MLA) to avoid walking towards the car. But the MLA started walking as it was a few metres away. We made regular bandobast as it was a scheduled programme," Adavath added.

Munirathna accused DyCM DK Shivakumar, former MP DK Suresh, and Hanumanthappa, father of Kusuma, who had contested against him in the Assembly polls and lost, of orchestrating the attack on him. P6

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ALMANAC TODAY

Thursday: 26.12.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana • Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Margashira • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Ekadasi 11.10 pm • Nakshatra: Swathi 5.23 pm • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • Rahukaala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Gulikakala: 09:00 am to 10:30 am • Yamaganda: 03:00 am to 04:30 am

WEATHER

MIN 19°C | MAX 26°C

FORECAST: Passing showers. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 06.39 am | Sunset 06.01 pm | Moonrise 02.28 am | Moonset 02.15 pm

9-KM NICE LINK ROAD TO EASE MYS RD TRAFFIC

Stretch will help commuters avoid jams at Rajarajeshwari Nagar Jn, BU, Pattanagere

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

THE Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) has come up with a 9-km link road at the BHEL-Deepanjali Nagar Junction that is expected to ease traffic between Nayandahalli and Kengeri, and facilitate smooth flow of vehicles towards PES College and Hosakerehalli.

With the development of the new stretch, commuters can enter at Deepanjali Nagar, avoid traffic signals at Rajarajeshwari Nagar Junction, Bengaluru University and Pattanagere and exit at Panchamukhi Ganapati Temple junction at Kengeri in 20 minutes. The stretch is expected to be operational in a few months.

Vehicle users can enter at Deepanjali Nagar and there will be no toll charges up to 1.5 km. This will help motorists heading towards PES College Junction and Banashankari in quick time, without paying any amount.

"Motorists regularly get stuck in traffic on this stretch. People reaching PES College or Banashankari or those heading towards Mysuru from Chamrajpet, Vijaynagar and other parts of the city had to take the Outer Ring Road, a high density corridor, or face traffic signals on Mysuru Road. With the link road near BHEL and Deepanjali Nagar Junction, people can reach PES College Junction in less than 10 minutes and Kengeri in 20 minutes," said an official from NICE.

The official also added that from BHEL Junction to Kengeri, the journey during peak hours is 60 minutes and with the link road, people can travel 9 km and then connect to NICE Peripheral Road, connect to Bengaluru-Mysuru Road via Kengeri. Motorists taking the link road stretch can avoid at least four signals between Deepanjali Nagar and Kengeri, said the official. "The link road is estimated to curb at least 30 per cent of the traffic on the existing Mysuru Road, as traffic will be distributed."

Further, motorists can easily connect to Bengaluru-Mysuru access controlled highway, once the project covering 13 km from Sompura is completed. "It will be a big advantage as big vehicles coming to Bidadi Industrial Area can also take this route and the traffic on Mysuru Road can be reduced further," he added.

"As there is a land issue with the government, things are getting delayed for this 13-km project. NICE is also willing to give sites to farmers who have lost their land earlier. The financial package is already given, but they are yet to get the site. The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) is willing to identify the land, but the approval from Public Works Department (PWD) is pending for many years," said the official.

Nandini idli & dosa batter in KMF stores from today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday launched Nandini's branded idli-dosa batter that will become available in all Nandini milk parlours from Thursday. The Karnataka Milk Federation has priced the batter at Rs 40 and Rs 80 for 450 gram and 950 gram, respectively.

KMF sources maintained that there was nothing political about the delay in the launch of the batter.

KMF Chairman Bheema Naik told *The New Indian Express* that for now, the batter will be available in Bengaluru and sales will start across the state gradually in the first quarter of 2025. Depending upon the demand, the batter will also be gradually made available at people's doorstep.

Explaining the difference between Nandini's batter and other brands available in the market, KMF Managing Director Shivaswamy said: "The one we are selling has whey protein. This is ideal for consumers as protein intake is essential for a healthy breakfast diet."

A senior KMF official added that there is 5% whey protein in 100 gram of the batter. "Generally South Indian delicacies, especially breakfast food items, have high carbohydrates and less protein. This batter was made in such a way that it will help those going to gyms. To start with, we are targeting around 1,000-2,000 kg sales per day and are hoping that demand will increase," the official added.

EXPRESS READ

KAMS welcomes RTE amendment

Bengaluru: The Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has welcomed the Union government's amendment to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Rules, 2010, granting authority to schools to fail students in classes 5 and 8. Welcoming the move, KAMS urged the state government to implement the same in Karnataka. Over 7,000 students from the government and government-aided schools can't read or write their mother tongue Kannada. They do not know basic mathematics. With this, how can they pass the exam, were the concerns raised by the teacher's association in Koppal. This is is more or less the state of education across the state, said KAMS General Secretary D Shashikumar. **ENS**

SPIRIT OF X'MAS

A girl looks on as devotees light candles at Infant Jesus Church on Wednesday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EDUCATION

YEAR OF UPHEAVALS AND DISPARITIES

DR NIRANJANARADHYA VP
Development Educationist

KARNATAKA'S education system has undergone significant changes this year, with new policies aimed at addressing the rigidity in the system to make it more flexible and student friendly. However, some of these reforms have sparked public debate, as the state grapples with their real education implications. From revamping examination formats to reverting UG programme duration and revising school textbooks, the state's attempts at reform have led to questions about their effectiveness and consequences on the educational ecosystem.

The introduction of thrice-yearly board examinations for Class 10 and 2nd PU stands out as a bold move to enable students to continue education without any hurdle or loss of an academic year. It also intends to reduce academic pressure. By allowing students to pick their best scores across three attempts, the policy aims to cater to varied learning paces and test-taking abilities.

However, this seemingly progressive step risks overemphasising examination performance at the expense of holistic education and critical thinking. Frequent examinations could also strain resources and burden teachers, while inadvertently fostering complacency among students who might rely on multiple attempts instead of aiming for excellence.

This may push students to a casual approach to education, saying, 'If not now, next time'. Striking a balance between alleviating stress and maintaining academic rigour and standard remains a critical challenge.

In higher education, the decision to revert undergraduate programmes from a four-year course to the earlier three-year format marks another significant shift. This move, designed to enhance accessibility for economically disadvantaged and rural students, underscores the state's commitment to inclusivity and specialised knowledge degree without strings attached.

Yet, a section of people expressed concerns about the logistical hurdles for institutions that have already aligned with the four-year structure under the National Education Policy -2020 (NEP). The sudden transition disrupts academic planning, curriculum design, and resource allocation, potentially compromising education quality during the transition period. Moreover, the shift could also limit some students' aspirations for international education as the four-year model aligns better with global standards, offering smoother pathways for postgraduate opportunities abroad.

A dual approach — offering both three-year and four-year options — could better serve Karnataka's diverse student population and the demands of the global academic landscape.

Textbook revisions have further stirred the education pot. Reinstating works of progressive writers and removing the controversial content from the previous revision reflect efforts to promote inclusivity and diverse perspectives. However, the expedited nature of these changes poses challenges as educational institutions may need to adjust preparatory programmes, teaching methodologies, and resource allocation.

Frequent textbook revisions also risk politicising education. While the intent to create an inclusive educational environment is commendable, the rapid pace of implementation could disrupt the ecosystem, impacting faculty members and students alike.

Beyond policies and curricula, disparities in resource distribution have come into sharp focus. Urban schools in Tier 1 cities benefit from infrastructure upgrades and modernised facilities, while government schools, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, face persistent challenges such as acute teacher shortages and inadequate infrastructure facilities.

With numerous teaching positions vacant in districts, the burden on existing staff increases, posing a big challenge for quality education. While urban infrastructure development is essential, it should not overshadow the pressing needs of government schools that cater to the majority of the student population. Addressing these disparities is crucial to ensuring equitable access to quality education.

To achieve a truly inclusive education system, Karnataka must prioritise recruiting and supporting qualified and competent teachers. The focus should be on creating an environment where teachers are motivated and equipped to inspire students. By implementing targeted interventions, learning from what works, and investing in teacher training, the state can align with global standards while ensuring lasting, meaningful progress.

Successful push for reforms, but challenges remain

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA'S education department had an eventful year, sticking to its promises and rolling out several key initiatives. From introducing the three-term examination system to reinstating the three-year degree programme in public universities and affiliated colleges, the department achieved much of what it set out to do. But is this enough to address the ongoing challenges in the education sector?

While implementing new schemes is crucial, the education department must address the long-standing gaps that persist. Despite years of data pointing to issues like teacher shortages in rural areas, high dropout rates, crumbling school infrastructure, and declining research output, these challenges remain unaddressed.

2024 also witnessed the introduction of three annual examinations for Class 10 and Class 12 students, aimed at reducing academic pressure. While this move provides students with multiple opportunities to improve their scores, it also raises questions about the long-term effectiveness of such a system.

By allowing examinations in March, May, and August, the education department hopes to relieve the stress of a single high-stakes examination. However, this could lead to increased pressure as students may feel compelled to take multiple attempts to perform better. Though the reform reflects a shift toward a more flexible approach, it also requires careful monitoring to ensure it truly benefits students without creating new challenges.

At the beginning of 2024, the department issued a circular mandating that taluk and block-level officials run compulsory awareness campaigns from June to bring students back to school. School headmasters and department officials were also directed to complete repair work by May to ensure a student-friendly environment. While these measures were put in place, the reality on the ground tells a different story.

Despite the directives, many schools continue to struggle with infrastructure issues, and efforts to bring students back have not yielded the expected results.

While new curriculum frameworks and action plans for holistic student development were introduced, the increasing vacancies in schools, pre-university institutions, and colleges have been largely ignored by the government. This failure continues to leave the education system crippled.

This year, the department signed an MoU with the UK's Chevening Scholarships programme, becoming the first southern state to offer a unique scholarship for women graduates to pursue Master's degrees in the UK. While this may appear as a progressive move, the department fails to grasp a crucial reality -- holistic education starts at the ground level. Without a solid foundation in local schools and colleges — where staffing shortages, poor infrastructure, and outdated curricula persist — such opportunities will remain out of reach for most students. Preparing candidates for prestigious scholarships is meaningless if the base is crumbling.

Government schools continue to paint a grim picture year after year, yet this is not a future that the next generation should be inheriting. The persistent failures in infrastructure, staffing, and resources paint a bleak reality for students, undermining their potential.

Effective monitoring systems to identify struggling students, assessing whether policies are working, and ensuring subject-specific teacher support are essential to prevent the closure of more schools. These initiatives are the only way to stop schools already on the brink from adding to the growing list of those that have shut down. Immediate action is crucial to prevent further deterioration of the education system and to give every student a chance to succeed.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

26TH December : Today's numerology features the number three, an indicator of unity and harmonious solutions. Today is therefore a fine time for making peace. If there is anyone you have fallen out with now is the moment to hold out the hand of friendship. And, if people close to you are at loggerheads, perhaps there is something you can do to help.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
There's still a high risk that you'll collide with somebody whose interests seem to be diametrically opposed to yours. You must decide whether you want to tough it out, or adopt a path of compromise and conciliation. My advice is definitely to opt for the latter.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You should make the most of the Moon's intense, practical presence. This planet adds warmth to your emotions and makes it easier for you to appreciate the good things of family life and the benefits of living where you do. And that all adds up to a chance to take a major leap forward at home.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The Moon is beginning a brief cruise through a rather secretive sector of your chart, inclining you to keep your feelings to yourself. You may gain more pleasure from quiet and peaceful company than from raucous outings. You'll also be coming up with new ways to keep fit.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
There is still tension in the air, but you are wise enough to be able to direct your energy into constructive, rather than destructive, activities. It is natural that your emotions should fluctuate at the moment, but you can be assured that you'll end this period on a positive note.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Professional involvement tends to dominate your time. If your current activities connect your work to your home in some way, or with providing help and security for others, then the stars suggest that there should be help on the way. When it comes, accept it thankfully.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The Moon now favours those of you with romantic goals ahead but, over the next forty-eight hours, you will all benefit from some straight talking and commonsense actions. The facts will win out sooner or later, even if there are people who are doing their level best to keep them hidden.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Believe it or not, there's a point behind family members' cantankerous moods. Deep within all the muddled opinions and provocative statements lies a kernel of truth about the way things may be improved in the future. And once you've figured that out, you're half-way home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The Moon, symbol of all things deep and impenetrable, is exerting a powerful, irresistible effect on your emotions. You'd do best to pay very careful attention to family members, indulging their whims if that is what is needed to keep the peace.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
According to today's lunar alignments, routine work must take a high profile. On the deeper level, though, there is a need to serve your community. You must be aware by now that you won't get what you want without putting in a great deal more effort. At least, that's the current message.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
There's a long way to go before you achieve your major ambitions, yet recent events must have shown you just how far you can get if you stick to the Capricornian principles of persistent and practical achievement. Steer clear of romantic muddles over the next few days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Current stars are ideal for all those self less Aquarians who have become involved in charitable and philanthropic activities. You may be forced to put your own interests in second place. But, then, that's probably a jolly good thing! At least, just for a short while!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Information which has been secret is to become public knowledge before long. A mystery, or some other confusing element in your current life, will be cleared up very soon. Have a go at helping other people talk their problems through and you'll learn something important about your own feelings.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

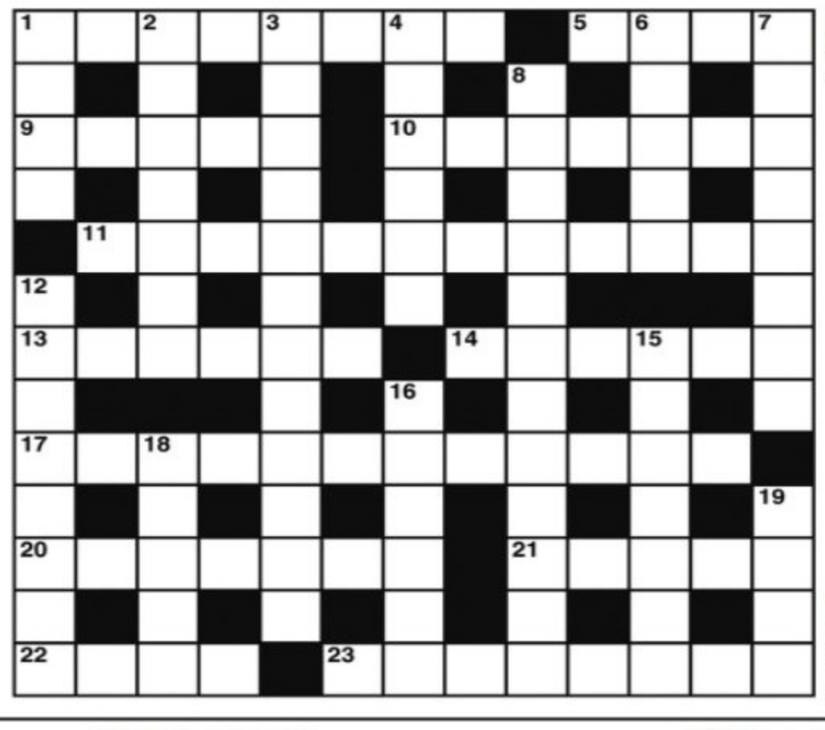
	6		4			1	7	
	9			8		6		
3			6	7				
7		9		6	4			
		2				4		
			8	1		7		5
				2	1			6
		4		5			9	
	2	5			8		1	

5	1	2	7	8	3	4	6	9
8	3	4	1	6	9	2	7	5
9	6	7	4	5	2	3	8	1
7	4	6	5	2	8	1	9	3
3	9	1	6	4	7	5	2	8
2	8	5	3	9	1	7	4	6
4	7	9	8	3	5	6	1	2
1	2	3	9	7	6	8	5	4
6	5	8	2	1	4	9	3	7

SUDOKU MEDIUM

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Dull but done with style (8)
5 Fight for support (4)
9 Old capital of Japan rebuilt as Tokyo (5)
10 IOUs run wild could well be (7)
11 Matches may be made if three girls go abroad (12)
13 Don't miss a review (6)
14 I am in pursuit in a carriage (6)
17 Made a resounding comeback (12)
20 Chooses to make an allusion in a postscript (7)
21 Top gear selected by a duchess perhaps (5)
22 Smash strike (4)
23 She is assigned to guard military uniform (8)

DOWN

1 Dull but done with style (8)
5 Fight for support (4)
9 Old capital of Japan rebuilt as Tokyo (5)
10 IOUs run wild could well be (7)
11 Matches may be made if three girls go abroad (12)
13 Don't miss a review (6)
14 I am in pursuit in a carriage (6)
17 Made a resounding comeback (12)
20 Chooses to make an allusion in a postscript (7)
21 Top gear selected by a duchess perhaps (5)
22 Smash strike (4)
23 She is assigned to guard military uniform (8)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Interlude, 8 Anona, 9 Correct, 10 Utmost, 11 Sector, 12 Aversion, 15 Huntress, 18 Taunts, 20 Sketch, 21 Bisects, 22 Edits, 23 See double.

Down: 2 Noose, 3 Errata, 4 Lacerate, 5 Easter, 6 Borodin, 7 Castanets, 11 Sightseer, 13 East wind, 14 Inherit, 16 Recess, 17 Bureau, 19 Total.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

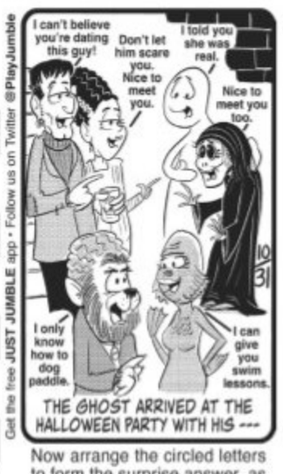
BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

ONUDH

NFGIL

RNNUOE

ZLERIA


I can't believe you're dating this guy!
Don't let him scare you. Nice to meet you.
I told you she was real.
Nice to meet you too.
I only know how to dog paddle.
I can give you swim lessons.
THE GHOST ARRIVED AT THE HALLOWEEN PARTY WITH HIS ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JETTY ADAGE SHAKEN REGRET
Answer: Sleepy Hollow's infamous horseman left early because he wanted to — GET A HEAD START

Punjab Land of Unlimited Opportunities

Sugarcane Farmers to Receive ₹401 Per Quintal

Punjab, The Highest Price Offering State in India

₹10 increase in Sugarcane price, Punjab becomes the highest price offering state for sugarcane in the country

₹764.99 crore paid to sugarcane farmers

The area under sugarcane cultivation has increased from 54,302 hectares to 56,391 hectares in 2024-25

"Farmers feed the entire nation; strengthening them economically is our duty. This initiative is a historic step towards bringing economic stability and empowerment to the lives of sugarcane farmers."

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

2220/13/290/2023/40156

Join Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's official WhatsApp channel

Scan Here

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

Former DCM and Rashtra Bhaktara Balaga convenor KS Eshwarappa has demanded a judicial probe into MLC CT Ravi's alleged derogatory remark case. He accused Shivakumar of conspiring behind the arrest and alleged illtreatment to Ravi

BYV hints DK bros conspired to remove Munirathna as MLA

Vijayendra says plot to get legislator killed as gunman withdrawn

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BJP state president BY Vijayendra, making a veiled attack against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and his brother and former MP DK Suresh, alleged that the duo has hatched a conspiracy to force Rajarajeshwari Nagar BJP MLA Munirathna to resign from his post.

Vijayendra was talking to reporters after meeting Munirathna, who was admitted to KC General Hospital after being pelted with eggs by miscreants. Drawing a parallel to the incident involving BJP MLC CT Ravi, who was allegedly taken across four districts by the police after his arrest on December 19 despite a threat to his life by Naxalites, Vijayendra alleged that the attack on Munirathna would not have occurred without the support of the government and Congress leaders.

Vijayendra also smelt a conspiracy to get Munirathna killed as his official gunman has been withdrawn. "The gunman has been taken off so that if someone stabs him in future, there would be no evidence or witnesses," he alleged.

"The attack on Munirathna is not a small incident. They (DK brothers) have been mounting pressure on him to resign from the MLA post to get their person (implying Kusuma) elected as MLA in the bypoll. The conspiracy has been there for sometime," he alleged.

Vijayendra claimed that he was told by BJP workers, including Munirathna's supporters, that their families were being terrorised by Congress "goons".

"Munirathna is facing several charges against him and those are different issues, for which we have no objection. But BJP will not tolerate the attack on its MLAs. As a party's chief, I have done my duty by standing with Munirathna," he said.

The Congress government had also tried to fix BJP MLA Hareesh Poonja in a false case, he added.

RR Nagar MLA Munirathna surrounded by his supporters soon after miscreants threw an egg at him in Bengaluru on Wednesday | EXPRESS

BJP leaders condemn attack on Munirathna

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION minister Pralhad Joshi and senior BJP leaders condemned the attack on BJP MLA N Munirathna on Wednesday.

Speaking to the media in Bengaluru, Joshi said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his party leaders should not take the law into their hands, adding that the CM is behaving like the way his party leaders had conducted during the Emergency.

"Munirathna is facing some allegations and let the law take its course in those cases, but there is no restriction on him from visiting his constituency," he said, adding that he was hit by an egg when he was taking part in a programme in his constituency.

Referring to the issue involving CT Ravi, Joshi said that even today, an FIR has not been registered based on Ravi's complaint, though there was an attempt to attack him inside the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha premises in Belagavi. When lawyers questioned the commissioner why they had not registered a case based on Ravi's complaint, the officer informed them that the case was transferred to the CID, Joshi said and added that they should register the case and then transfer it to the CID.

He said the government suspended police inspector Manjunath Nayak for allowing Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka and other BJP leaders to meet Ravi when he was in the police station. "The police commissioner and SP were also there at that time, what were they doing?" he questioned.

The government is trying to create fear, he said. Senior BJP leaders and even lawyers were not allowed to meet Ravi when he was at the police station, Joshi said.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra also hit out at the government over the attack on Munirathna.

> **Munirathna is facing some allegations and let the law take its course in those cases, but there is no restriction on him from visiting his constituency**
>
> Pralhad Joshi, Union minister

Attack on RR Nagar MLA: Doctors wait for test results

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

IN his reaction, Bengaluru Rural MP Dr CN Manjunath suspected the possibility of some chemical in the egg as the MLA's hair got burnt in the attack.

"Doctors have conducted several tests, including a CT scan. We are waiting for the results of the tests to confirm if it was an acid attack," said Dr Mohan, medical superintendent of KC General Hospital.

Before the MLA was attacked, a person in the group was heard screaming "acid dhaalo" (throw acid). A video of this incident has gone viral. The miscreants also damaged the MLA's car.

BJP workers staged a protest in front of Dr Rajkumar's Memorial in Sree Kanteerava Studio, raising slogans against the Congress government. Congress workers too staged a protest outside the Nandini Layout police station. They demanded that a case be registered against Munirathna as some party workers were attacked.

Meanwhile, a Congress worker alleged that he was attacked by Yogesh, Vasanth Kumar, Madhu and Dhum Kumar, all supporters of Munirathna.

Large cutouts of senior Congress leaders erected in Belagavi, ahead of the CWC meeting, on Wednesday | EXPRESS

Local leaders and all MPs from state invited to Belagavi event: Shivakumar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

DyCM DK Shivakumar said a book containing documents related to the 1924 session will be released on Thursday. A statue of Mahatma Gandhi will be unveiled at Veera Soudha at 10 am. Later, a photo exhibition will be inaugurated, followed by a "Khadi Mela" at 10.45 am.

At 11.15 am, he and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will unveil a memorial of freedom fighter Gangadhar Deshpande at Ramteerth Nagar in the city. An exhibition of pictures of Deshpande, who was instrumental in organising the 1924 session, will be inaugurated. The CWC meet will be held at 3 pm. A dinner will be hosted by Kharge at 7 pm.

On Friday, Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will unveil the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha at 10.30 am. Siddaramaiah will preside over the function to be held under the leadership of Assembly Speaker UT Khader and Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti. Leaders from all parties will be invited. "We have invited local leaders and all MPs from the state to the function. A banquet will be hosted by the chief minister at noon. A public meeting will be held at 1 pm," he Shivakumar said.

Gandhi Bharat programme

The state government and the Congress party will organise "Gandhi Bharat programme" across the state for a year to mark the centenary of the 1924 session.

Debate competitions will be held in schools and colleges. Discussions on Gandhi's principles will be held.

Party leaders will meet today, tomorrow to decide on continuing political, legal fight: Ravi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chikkamagaluru

BJP MLC CT Ravi alleged here on Wednesday that Congress government is "ruffian", and used the police to manhandle and humiliate him on December 19 in Belagavi. The police curtailed his fundamental rights and tortured him mentally and physically, flouting all human rights, he charged. He was narrating the incident at the Legislative Council during the winter legislature session, where he was arrested by the Belagavi police for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar.

He said party leaders will meet on December 26 and 27 to decide on continuing political and legal fight against those who acted as puppets of the government and misused their powers, violating the law and Constitution.

"Stringent action should be taken against the police officers who behaved inhumanly with me and they should be suspended. A tragic incident took place at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on December 19 and I filed a complaint against the attackers, but no FIR has been registered till today. The police, without the movement order, arrested me like a criminal and took me in their van for over 400 km through four districts. Six police personnel made me walk near a sugarcane field and at that moment, I felt that I would be bumped off in an encounter," he alleged.

On the Khanapur station circle police inspector being suspended, he said action should be taken against the police commissioner and superintendent of police.

On BJP leaders gathering at the police station, he said it was not a BJP meeting at the police station as claimed, but party leaders had come to meet him in the presence of the police commissioner.

"Congress leaders say they have video clips of the incident at the Council. The people who videographed it are not strangers. Personal assistants of Minister Hebbalkar and MLC Channaraju came to attack me. I wonder why the chief minister did not take any action against them," he said.

On the challenge thrown at him by the minister to come to Dharmasthala and swear in the name of God whether he had insulted her, Ravi said that on the night he was being taken around by the police, he had sworn that he would fulfill a vow before Goddess Savadatti Yellamma. "I will not hesitate to go to Dharmasthala," he added.

To a question whether the incident has taken a caste colour, he replied that he believed in Hindutva ideology and condemned the attack on BJP MLA Munirathna.

INSPECTOR SUSPENDED FOR 'BOTCHED' HANDLING OF CASE

BELAGAVI: Under pressure for mishandling the case involving BJP MLC CT Ravi, the police department suspended Khanapur police inspector Manjunath Nayak for reportedly allowing a meeting of BJP leaders in the station, following Ravi's arrest. It may be noted that Ravi was taken to various stations after his arrest as a safety measure by the police, on the night of December 19. Northern Range IGP Vikash Kumar initiated action against Nayak.
Meanwhile, protesting Nayak's suspension, while sparing the police commissioner and SP over mishandling of Ravi's case, several organisations have called for a 'Khanapur bandh' on December 26.

Don't drag Rahul's name into Ravi saga, Cong leaders told

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

IN a twist into the saga of BJP MLC CT Ravi's alleged derogatory remarks against Women and Child Welfare Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar, the Congress high command has instructed its leaders in the state, including Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, not to drag Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's name into the issue, sources told *TNIE*.

AICC General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal issued the instructions at the behest of Rahul as the BJP national leadership would ratchet up the issue to the national level, the sources added.

Laxmi had said that she hit back at Ravi and called him a "murderer" as he had termed Rahul a "drug addict". Ravi later went on to allegedly use a derogatory remark against her. Shivakumar too had defended Laxmi, saying Hebbalkar attacked Ravi as he denigrated Rahul.

Meanwhile, the day the incident occurred at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on December 19, party chief whip in the Council Saleem Ahmed had called up Venugopal and apprised him of the incident. Venugopal later discussed it with Rahul and a message was passed onto state leaders not to take Rahul's name anymore referring to this episode, the sources said. "This is the reason Hebbalkar in her complaint to Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti just mentioned that she was replying to Ravi as he attacked a Congress national leader. We too think that Rahul's name should not have been dragged into this episode. We thank Saleem for getting the high command's direction on this," a party MLC told *TNIE*.

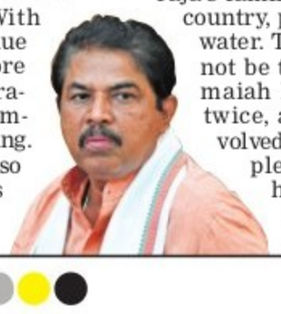
Congress leaders, including ministers, are not taking Rahul's name, remarked another party leader.

'Govt incurring losses due to Shakti scheme'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition in the Assembly **R Ashoka** on Wednesday said the state government has suffered huge losses owing to the Shakti guarantee scheme, due to which state transport corporation employees were protesting.

"Though senior Congress leader Basavaraj Rayareddy has said it many times, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah did not pay any heed. There have been losses from providing free travel to women under the Shakti scheme. With the government due to pay Rs 4,000 crore to transport corporations, transport employees are protesting. The government also has Rs 1,500 arrears against the subsidies that should have been given to farmers," he told reporters.



He pointed out that the government has borrowed Rs 1.5 lakh crore loan, and if Siddaramaiah plans to raise Rs 2 lakh crore loan for the next financial year, the state's progress would suffer. Separately, the LoP, in the Assembly, said that renaming the KRS Road in Mysuru after Siddaramaiah is not a good move. "If something needs to be named, then a new road should be built and named after him or his family. The Maharaja's family has served this country, provided food and water. The family should not be targeted. Siddaramaiah has been the CM twice, and if he gets involved in such work, people's feelings about him will change," he said.

REMEMBERING ATALJI

Former PM HD Deve Gowda, former CM BS Yediyurappa, and BJP national general secretary BL Santhosh at a 'Good Governance Day' event to mark the birth centenary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Bengaluru on Wednesday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Signature campaign against renaming road in Mysuru after Siddu gains traction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

A day after activists and environmentalists objected to Mysuru City Corporation's (MCC) proposal to rename a prominent stretch of KRS Road as "Siddaramaiah Arogya Marga", an online signature campaign has been launched, fuelling a heated debate among netizens.

The 1.5-km stretch from Sri Lakshmi Venkataramana Swamy Temple Circle in Vontikoppal to Metagalli Royal Inn Junction is popularly known as KRS Road or the 'Princess Road'. The MCC has proposed to rename the road in honor of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The decision, announced during a corporation council meeting in late November, has met with stiff resistance from various quarters. The corporation had issued a public notice, inviting objections and suggestions, as per protocol, but the move has sparked widespread criticism.

'Erasing city's legacy'

Opponents argue that the iconic name "Princess Road" is deeply embedded in Mysuru's historical and cultural identity and renaming it would erase a part of the city's legacy. Several environmentalists, including Bhanu Mohan, raised concerns over the lack of public consultation and transparency in the decision-making process.

Now, the online signature campaign started by youngster Ravi Keerthi in Change.org against renaming of the road has rapidly gained momentum, with hundreds of citizens voicing their disapproval on social media platforms and through digital petitions. Many residents have emphasised the need to preserve Mysuru's heritage and urged MCC to reconsider the proposal.

Simha backs naming street after Siddaramaiah

Amid the controversy over the MCC proposal to name a road after CM Siddaramaiah, former MP Pratap Simha has come out in open favouring the road from Venkateshwara temple to Ring Road junction to be named after the AHINDA leader. Simha said Siddaramaiah, in his political journey spanning four decades, has contributed immensely for the development of Mysuru. "A Mysorean, Siddaramaiah went on to become the chief minister of the state twice with absolute majority. Though, I have ideological differences with him. I am for naming the street after Siddaramaiah," Simha said.

A 54-year-old realtor was attacked by a gang of five at Dasanapura off the Bengaluru-Tumakuru Road. The accused first threw chilli powder on his face. They then attacked him with iron rods and other weapons. After hearing his cry for help, his friend and another person rushed towards him. The gang escaped in vehicles in which they had arrived

'ACCIDENTS AT NIGHT ACCOUNT FOR 70% OF ROAD FATALITIES'

Experts flag overspeeding, poor visibility, lack of driving skills, bad infra for mishaps

RITIKA MITRA @ Bengaluru

ON a daily basis, two people were killed, and 11 people suffered injuries in road accidents in the city until November. Nearly 70 per cent of these accidents occurred at night, which experts attribute to overspeeding, poor visibility, lack of driving skills, and inadequate infrastructure.

According to data till November-end, 780 fatal accidents were reported, in which 802 people lost their lives. Besides, 3,685 people were injured in 3,571 non-fatal accidents. In 2023, there were 882 fatal accidents and 4,092 non-fatal accidents reported. This year, most number of accidents took place in the jurisdiction of the International Airport traffic police station, which recorded 224 accidents, resulting in 53 fatalities and 230 injuries. This was followed by KR Puram traffic police station, where 222 cases were reported.

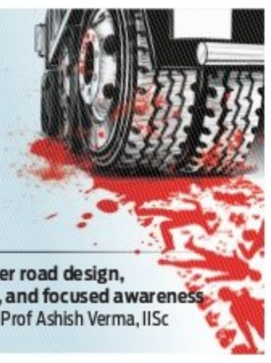
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic - South Division) Shivaprakash Devaraju told *TNIE* that night accidents have become a worrying trend in the city, with 75-80 per cent of fatal and non-fatal accidents occurring between 6 pm and 6 am. Pedestrians and two-wheeler riders are the most vulnerable. Poor visibility and overspeeding at night makes it difficult for commuters to spot pedestrians and other obstructions, leading to fatal collisions. He further added that most nighttime accidents are self-accidents, often associated with overspeeding and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Mobility expert from IISc, Prof Ashish Verma, told *TNIE* that nighttime accidents in the city are increasing due to poor infrastructure and risky driving behaviours, such as signal jumping and rash driving. "There is an immediate need for better road design, stricter enforcement of traffic rules, and focused awareness programmes to combat this growing problem," he added.

SCARY NUMBERS

Year	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Total Accidents
2022	752	3,070	3,822
2023	882	4,092	4,974
*2024	780	3,571	4,351

(*till Nov)



There is an immediate need for better road design, stricter enforcement of traffic rules, and focused awareness programs to combat this problem — Prof Ashish Verma, IISc

The mangled remains of the car after the collision on Wednesday | EXPRESS

4 of family killed in car-SUV collision in Haveri

Haveri: Four members of a family from Davangere died in a road accident near Shiggaon town in Haveri district on Wednesday. Police said, an SUV travelling towards Hubballi lost control, jumped over the divider and collided head-on with a car which was on its way from Hubballi to Bengaluru. While two persons died on the spot, two others succumbed to their injuries while being taken to the hospital. The deceased have been identified as Chandramma, 59, Meena, 38, Mahesh Kumar C, 41 and Dhanaveer 11. Haveri District In-charge Minister Shivanand Patil expressed deep condolences over the loss of four lives in the horrific accident which took place near Tadas-Timmapur on the National Highway. He instructed police officials to identify accident-prone zones on the highways within the district and install warning signboards. He also directed them to take measures to prevent parking of vehicles on the roadside, as it often leads to accidents. Rudrappa Lamani, Deputy Speaker and MLA from Haveri, expressed profound grief over the loss of the four lives. He urged the public to drive cautiously and adhere to speed limits to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Energy dept keen on enhancing power generation at Bidadi plant

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE energy department is generating 11.5 mega watt (MW) power per day from Bidadi's waste to energy plant using 600 tonnes of dry waste generated by Bengalureans on a daily basis.

Now, the government agency is keen to enhance the installed capacity and increase power generation, as a part of the non- conventional power generation source.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is also pleased with the idea and looks at it as a solution to address the increasing problem of waste management.

But officials in the energy department are sceptical and said, "While the government is keen on expanding the plant's installed capacity, it can be done when BBMP ensures of consistent quality of segregated good quality garbage."

The plant has been set-up at the cost of Rs 370 crore and commercial operations started from December 19, 2024. Till this date, the dry waste received at the centre is 49,131 million tonnes of which 44,006 million tonnes has been utilised.

The KPCL has generated 14.6058 million units of power. The unit has also consumed 1.9035 million units of power and supplied 12.7023 million units of power to the grid, costing Rs 7.08 per unit in generation.

Sources in KPCL said there has been delay in the official inauguration of the plant, however, power generation has already started and 11.5MW is being added to the grid on a daily basis. Through this plant, the target is to process at least 25% of Bengaluru's waste and generate electricity. Presently the city generates around 5,800 tonnes of waste, of which 2,000 tonnes is dry waste, generated in BBMP limits.

Explaining the process, the official said, dry waste is incinerated at high temperatures and the resulting heat is used to boil water producing steam. This steam is driven through turbines to generate electricity. Unlike traditional coal and thermal power plants, dry waste is used in power generation in Bidadi. The ash generated from the waste incineration is being handed over to BBMP, the official added.

The BBMP and the energy department are also discussing on methods on how to dispose the ash in a scientific manner, abiding to all the norms set by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB)

Mentally ill woman reunited with her family after 23 years

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

A 50-year-old mentally ill woman, who had gone missing 23 years ago, was reunited with her family members here on Wednesday. **Saakamma** was found in an old age home in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. She hails from Dananayakanakere village in Hospet taluk of Vijayanagara district.

A turning point in her life came when a probationary IPS officer from Hassan, Ravinandan BM, met her in the old age home a few days ago.

He shared a video of Saakamma with his friend Vijay Kumar in Bengaluru, who posted it on social media, tagging the Social Welfare Department.

Kumar, who conducts coaching classes for competitive exams, told TNIE that the management of the old age home informed Ravinandan, who works in Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh, that they have a woman inmate, who only spoke Kannada.

Ravinandan met Saakamma and recorded the video in which she stated that she was from Dananayakanakere village in Hospet of Ballari district (now in Vijayanagara district).

After she went missing at a family function in her hometown, Saakamma begged and lived on the streets of various towns and cities and finally reached Himachal Pradesh by train two years ago.

In her long conversation with Ravinandan, Saakamma spoke about her brother, family name, and residential address. Ravinandan sent the video to Kumar, who initially shared it with his students and their WhatsApp groups, hoping that someone from Ballari would recognise her.

When there was no response, Kumar posted the video on social media on December 13, tagging the principal secretary of the Social Welfare Department, P Manivannan, and the helpline number of the department.

Manivannan reacted swiftly and coordinated with the Ballari deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police. After local officials traced Saakamma's family members, she was brought to Bengaluru by flight by a three-member team.

Addressing the media on Wednesday, Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa lauded Kumar, who played a crucial role in reuniting Saakamma with her family.

Saakamma's third son, Vikram, a daily wage worker, said, "We are very happy to see her after 23 years. We lost her during a family function. After our week-long search for her went in vain, my father filed a police complaint. Later, we lost hope. Two years ago, we performed her last rites, believing that she was no more. But a few days ago, officials from Ballari showed a video to my aunt and we identified her. Although my mother has lost her memory, we are glad to have her back. We will take care of her henceforth."

We are very happy to see her after 23 years. We lost her during a family function. After our week-long search went in vain, my father filed a police complaint — Vikram, Saakamma's third son

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.59,16,764/- (Rupees Fifty Nine Lakh Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Four only)** as on **18-11-2024** together with further interest to be charged from **19-11-2024** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. Raghu Raman, S/o. Venkatesh.D, No.22, 1st P Main, Muniswarappa Block, Ganganagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560032. No.2) Mrs. Varalakshmi, W/o. Venkatesh.D, No.22, 1st P Main, Muniswarappa Block, Ganganagar, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560032. No.3) Mr. A.Ankith, S/o. Andanaiah, No.7/2, 1st Main Road, Aangamagai Behind Binny Mill, R T Nagar, Bangalore - 560032.**

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. Raghu Raman, S/o. Venkatesh.D)

All that Piece and Parcel of the Southern Portion of the Residential Property Bearing Survey No.88, Present BBMP Khatha No.59/88/1, No.D.A.516/2013-14, Earlier Portion of BBMP Khatha No.DA/271/2013-14, Situated at Chikkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Duly Converted From Agricultural to Residential Purpose Vide Converted Order No. ALN (NAY), SR.No.272 and 273/2007-08 converted by Special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore, Measuring : Eastern Side : 165 Feet, Western Side : 170 Feet, Northern Side : 111.2 Feet, Southern Side : 111.8 Feet (165 + 170) Feet and (110 + 111.2) / 2 totally Measuring 18,592.5 Square Feet and Bounded on : East by : Remaining Property in the same Survey Number belongs to Sri. S. Raja and Others, West by : Remaining Property in the same Survey Number belongs to Sri. S. Raja and Others, North by : Road, South by : Government Rock.

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Raghu Raman, S/o. Venkatesh.D)

(Description of Undivided Share in Schedule - A Property) Proportionate undivided Share of 241.5 Square Feet, in the Schedule - A Property According to Schedule - C and Total Super Built-up Area.

Schedule - C : (Property Owned by Mr. Raghu Raman, S/o. Venkatesh.D)

Residential Flat Bearing No.310, 3rd Floor, Having a Super Built-up Area of 1,050 Sq.Ft. of RCC Roofing, Consisting of Two Bedrooms, built with Bricks and Cement Walls, Vitrified Flooring, Wood Doors and Aluminum Framed Windows and provided with Separate Electricity, Water Supply and Sanitary lines from the common pipelines in the building known as OMEGA ASTER With one covered Car Parking in Stilt Floor.

Reserve Price : Rs.29,00,000/-
(Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh only) (For Schedule : A, B & C)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
21-01-2025	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-R.T.Nagar Branch, No.590, HMT Layout, 4th Cross, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032. Telephone No.080-23337000, Cell No. 9342855177.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-R.T. Nagar Branch, No.590, HMT Layout, 4th Cross, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.**, together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-23337000, Cell No. 9342855177.** **(5)** The property/ ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 23-12-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813 | Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-17659)

Tender Enquiry no.1735/Th.Op/O&M/PC-2538 Dated 24-12-2024

Chief Engineer / O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the **Procurement of Two No. Fire Tenders for GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat.,** Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **24-12-2024** at **17:00 hrs.** onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

1190/GHTP-102/24-12/24/2024
76155/12/3749/2023/40218

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the property described in the SCHEDULE hereunder, from its owners **Smt. Gowramma** W/o Late Chickkapapanna and her two daughters namely Smt. Ramya. C. and Smt. Sowmya. C. Any person/s/bank/ society/firm or any other body having any right, title, interest, claim or charge over the schedule mentioned property or any part thereof is hereby notified to lodge their objections/claims if any, in writing with documentary proof regarding their manner of right, title, interest or charge over the schedule mentioned property with the office of the undersigned within **Fifteen days (15 days)** from date of publication of this notice, after which period my client shall proceed to purchase the schedule mentioned property, on the basis that there are no objections / claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule mentioned property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the Property being converted land bearing **Sy No. 25/1 (Old Sy No- 22/2)** Measuring **2-00 Acres,** Guttahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,(converted vide Official Memorandum dated 04-11-2004, No. ALN (DE) SR.88/2004-05 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District) and bounded on by;

East by : Sy No. 25/2;
West by : Sy No. 24/1,
North by : Nandi Road,
South by : Doddakalappa's Property;

Sd/- **A. V. NARASIMHA REDDY,** Advocate
Office at No. 464, 20th Main, 26th Cross, Judicial Layout, G.K.V.K. Post, Yelahanaka New Town, Bangalore – 560 065.
Moblie: 9480333221, 6366168523

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my client has agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner, **Smt.SAVITHRY alias SRINIVASA MURTHY SAVITHRY D/o late Srinivasa Murthy and W/o Sri.M.S.Gurudutt**, residing at: No.111, Shankar Mutt Road, Shankarapuram, Bangalore-560004.

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential flat No.II-D-77/11 bearing Municipal No.77/11 (PID No.50-4-77/11) having super built up area of 1090 Sq.ft. situated on the 2nd Floor, of the apartment building known as "LA ROYALE HOMES" built in the Property bearing Municipal No.40 and No.77, situated at Kavi Lakshmisha Road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore, coupled with 435.46 Sq.ft of undivided share of interest in land and together with one Car Parking Space in the Stilt floor and the entire apartment building is bounded on:

East by : Vasavi Temple Road 1st Cross
West by : Kavi Lakshmisha Road
North by : Private Property belonging to Geethamma and Prabhakar's Property
South by : Private Property and Papamma & Radhakrishna's Property

Sd/- **Goutam Chand S.F**
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners **SRI.ROHITH.M.N (ROHITH MANAVARTHE NAGARAJA RAO)** S/o Sri.M.Nagaraja Rao **and his wife SMT.RASHMI.N.D,** residing at No.203, RRBC Pratham, 17th Cross, 4th Main Road, Siddanna Layout, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560070. If any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential property bearing **Municipal No.509 (Site No.509 Intermediate), E.P.I.D.No. 8538732232** measuring on the East 30ft, on the West 30ft, on the North 40ft and on the South 40 ft, in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft., in the layout formed by the **Bangalore City Co-Operative Housing Society** Limited, situated at **Vajarahalli Village,** Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.198 and bounded as follows :

East by : Property bearing No.468
West by : Road
North by : Property bearing No.508
South by : Property bearing No.510

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 2nd Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road,
BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

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IN THE COURT OF THE XXXI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH-14)
P & SC No. 575 OF 2023

BETWEEN : **1. SMT. SUNITA,** Aged about 55 years, Daughter of Late C.R. Mohan, HNo. 94, Ward 32, Hisar, Haryana. (Presently at Bengaluru, No.125, Kamaraja Road, Bengaluru - 560 042), **2. MR.VEERENDRA SHARMA,** Aged about 51 years, S/o Late C.R. Mohan, No.125, Kamaraja Road, Bengaluru - 560 042. **...PETITIONERS**
AND : NIL ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named has made Petition to this court under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favor of the Petitioners, in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule was held by Late Mrs. Anita Mohan, mother of the Petitioners herein who expired on 03.12.2010.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 3.2.2025 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the Petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex- Parte.

1. The copies of the shares, Debentures and warrant certificate are produced herewith and marked collectively as **ANNEXURE 'B'.**

SL. No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE SHARES, DEBENTURES AND WARRANTS ALONG WITH DISTINCTIVE SHARE NUMBERS AND CERTIFICATE NUMBER			NO OF SHARES / DEBENTURES AND WARRANTS PURCHASED	VALUE OF EACH SHARE (as specified in share Certificate)
1	Reliance Industries Ltd	Distinctive No. 002212778996 - 002212777073	Certificate No. 62530982	78 Shares	Rs. 10 each
2	Reliance Industries Ltd	Distinctive No. 006887787940 - 006887788095	Certificate No. 66802009	156 shares	Rs. 10 each
3	Reliance Power Ltd	Distinctive No. 2402784367 - 2402784385	Certificate No. 004542327	19 Shares	Rs. 10 each
4	Farm Enterprise Ltd	Distinctive No. 0152626550 - 0152626565	Certificate No. 24135	16 Shares	Rs. 10 each
5	Farm Enterprises Ltd	Distinctive No. 00000064746 - 00000064746	Certificate No. 26627	1 share	Rs. 10 each
6	Farm Enterprises Ltd	Distinctive No. 0139882250 - 0139882265	Certificate No. 26655	16 warrants	Rs. 10 each
7	Reliance Enterprises Ltd	Distinctive No. 0010267633 - 0010267648	Certificate No. 36419	16 Shares	Rs. 200 each
8	Reliance Enterprises Ltd	Distinctive No. 0010267633 - 0010267648	Letter of Allotment No. 723491	16 Shares	Rs. 200 each
9	Reliance Enterprises Ltd	Distinctive No. 000332563 - 000332563	Certificate No. 000227653	1 Share	Rs. 10 each
10	Reliance Industries Ltd	Distinctive No. 034341353 - 034341354	Letter of Allotment No. H 02047678	2 Debentures	Rs. 150 each
11	Bhoruka Aluminium Ltd.	Distinctive No. 053908359 - 053908408	Certificate No. 103564	50 shares	Rs. 10 each
12	Gabriel India Ltd	Distinctive No. 78626908 - 78627407	Certificate No. 18453	500 Shares	Rs. 1 each
13	Schneider Electric Infrastructure Ltd	Distinctive No. 4648686 - 4648985	Certificate No. 5891	300 shares	Rs.2 each
14	Shamrao Vittal Co-operative Bank	Distinctive No. 11293890 - 11293914	Certificate No. 166747	25 Shares	Rs. 25 each
15	Indo-continental Hotels and Resorts Ltd	Distinctive No. 752361 - 752410	Certificate No. 0005052	50 Shares	Rs. 10 each
16	SB Properties and Enterprises Ltd	Distinctive No. 263051 - 263100	Certificate No. B001/052	50 Shares	Rs. 10 each
17	Reliance Communication Ventures Ltd	Distinctive No. 0041071955 - 0041072032	Certificate No. 000345014	78 Shares	Rs. 5 each
18	Reliance Natural Resources Ltd	Distinctive No. 0041071955 - 0041072032	Certificate No. 000345015	78 Shares	Rs. 5 each
19	Reliance Industries Ltd	Distinctive No. 257339234 - 257339235	Certificate No. 12739572	2 Shares	Rs. 10 each
20	Vediocon Industries Ltd	Distinctive No. 0010633401 - 0010633500	Certificate No. 000021710	100 Shares	Rs. 10 each
21	GEC Alsthom India Ltd. (Name of the company changed to Areva T & D India Ltd)	Distinctive No. 19153357 - 19153396	Certificate No. 90969	40 shares	Rs. 10 each
22	GEC Alsthom India Ltd. (Name of the company changed to Areva T & D India Ltd)	Distinctive No. 36083899 - 36083908	Certificate No. 00206355	10 shares	Rs. 10 each
23	GEC Alsthom India Ltd. (Name of the company changed to Areva T & D India Ltd)	Distinctive No. 36083909 - 36083918	Certificate No. 00206356	10 shares	Rs. 10 each
24	Areva T&D India Ltd	Distinctive No. 0006338791 - 0006339090	Certificate No. 0000249683	300 shares	Rs. 2 each
25	Reliance Industries Ltd	Distinctive No. 001247145366 - 001247145376	Certificate No. 53270018	11 Shares	Rs. 10 each
26	Reliance Industries Ltd	Distinctive No. 001247145377 - 001247145404	Certificate No. 53270019	28 shares	Rs. 10 each
27	Karnataka Aluminium Ltd	Distinctive No. 0425951 - 0426000	Certificate No. 000530	50 shares	Rs. 10 each
28	Gangappa Paper Mills Ltd	Distinctive No. 1144451 - 1144500	Certificate No. 04805	50 shares	Rs. 10 each
29	Reliance Energy Ltd.	Distinctive No. 0212816181 - 0212816185	Certificate No. 015577348	5 shares	Rs. 10 each
30	Reliance Capital Ltd.	Distinctive No. 0224510804 - 0224510806	Certificate No. 016177348	3 shares	Rs. 10 each

Given under my hand & Seal of the Court, this 18th day of December 2024.

Address for Service : **H.P. GANESH GOWDA,** Advocate
Off. No. 20, 2nd Floor, S.L. Plaza, 8th Cross, Near Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003. Mob. : 99163 51036, 7259102101

By order of the Court
Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No.IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-13/599/2024-25 Date: 24.12.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES.
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work:

Name of the works : Providing Project Management Consultancy Service for the work of formation of Sub layout including formation of 24m wide roads, 18, wide roads including asphalting, construction of RCC side drains, RCC cross drainage works, SWD, HDPE dual water supply pipeline at Devanahalli General Industrial Area, Devanahalli, Doddaballapura Talu, Bengaluru Rural Disrict.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **08.01.2025** upto **4.30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/CP/3973/Zen/2024-25

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

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Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

Phone no. 0674-2431253, e-mail: info@bmc.gov.in

XXXXX-II-SWMPMU-143/2024-25

No: 52464 /BMC, BBSR Dated. 20.12.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

C-1322 : On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation), BMC invites tenders through e-Procurement in conformity with terms and conditions of the tender document in Two Bid System (Part-I): General & Technical Bid and Part II: Financial Bid /Price Bid/ BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other qualifying requirements mentioned in this tender document for **"Mechanical Sweeping and Allied Cleaning of Select Road Stretches under Package-1 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for a period of three years"**. Each bid should be submitted online through the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in by eligible bidders. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (Digital Signature Certificate) under e-procurement process of Govt. of Odisha in required class/category. For queries, if any on this tender document, intending bidders may contact Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar during office hours.

1. Schedule of Events:

SL No	Description	Critical Dates
1.	Period of availability of tender document for bidding.	From 23.12.2024 (Time- 11.00 AM) to Dt.22.01.2025 (Time 5.00 PM)
2.	Pre- Bid Meeting	Dt. 03.01.2025 Time 12.00 Noon
3.	Submission of Pre-bid queries by bidders to email id: de-sanitation@bmc.gov.in	Dt.04.01.2025 Up to 5.00 PM
4.	Last date and time for submission of proposal on online mode	Dt.22.01.2025 (5.00 PM)
5.	Date & Time of opening of proposal	Dt.24.01.2025 (12.00 Noon)

2. Other details can be seen in the bidding document available in website tendersodisha.gov.in (for view, download and bidding) and in BMC Website www.bmc.gov.in (for view and download only).
3. All amendments, Clarifications, time extension etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
4. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof subject to the limitations prescribed by Central Vigilance Commission.

By Order of the Commissioner, BMC
Sd/- Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation)
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

OIPR-13002/11/0119/2425

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

Phone no. 0674-2431253, e-mail: infoa@bmc.gov.in

XXXXX-II-SWMPMU-143/2024-25

No: 52469 /BMC, BBSR Dated. 20.12.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

C-1324 : On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation). BMC invites tenders through e-Procurement in conformity with terms and conditions of the tender document in Two Bid System (Part-I): General & Technical Bid and Part II: Financial Bid /Price Bid/ BOQ/ from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other qualifying requirements mentioned in this tender document for **"Mechanical Sweeping and Allied Cleaning of Select Road Stretches under Package-II of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for a period of three years"**. Each bid should be submitted online through the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in by eligible bidders. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (Digital Signature Certificate) under e-procurement process of Govt. of Odisha in required class/category. For queries, if any on this tender document, intending bidders may contact Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar during office hours.

1. Schedule of Events:

SL No	Description	Critical Dates
1.	Period of availability of tender document for bidding.	From 23.12.2024 (Time- 11.00 AM) to Dt.22.01.2025 (Time 5.00 PM)
2.	Pre- Bid Meeting	Dt. 03.01.2025 Time 12.00 Noon
3.	Submission of Pre-bid queries by bidders to email id: de-sanitation@bmc.gov.in	Dt.04.01.2025 Up to 5.00 PM
4.	Last date and time for submission of proposal on online mode	Dt.22.01.2025 (5.00 PM)
5.	Date & Time of opening of proposal	Dt.24.01.2025 (12.00 Noon)

2. Other details can be seen in the bidding document available in website tendersodisha.gov.in (for view, download and bidding) and in BMC Website www.bmc.gov.in (for view and download only).
3. All amendments, Clarifications, time extension etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
4. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof subject to the limitations prescribed by Central Vigilance Commission.

By Order of the Commissioner, BMC
Sd/- Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation)
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

OIPR-13002/11/0121/2425

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Murugan Manikkam, 2) Mrs. Kalamani Manikkam	Loan Account No. 48009430000517 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Residential House Property bearing Northern Portion of Gramatana Khaneshumari Khatha No.229, situated at Vaddarapalya, Horamavu Agara Dhakale, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Now Comes Under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 Feet and North to South 14 Feet, measuring in all 420 Sq.feet, with ACC Sheet Roofed House Consisting of 310 Sq.feet built up area with Red Oxide Flooring and Jungle Woodworks and **Bounded on the: East by:** Road, **North by:** Formerly Nanjappa House Property Presently Property belongs to Shobha, **West by:** Formerly Anjinappa House Property Presently Property belongs to Renigeth, **South by:** Remaining Portion of Same Property belongs to A Venugopal.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 16-12-2024	**Rs.4,53,720.36** (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty and Thirty Six Paisa Only) **due as on 12-12-2024**
2	1) Mr. Siddik Pasha, Also at: M/s. Fabrication & Engineering Works, 2) Mrs. Rehana, 3) Mrs. Nageena	Loan Account No. 34019630000946 33879440000252 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that the piece and parcel of the immovable property being a Vacant Residential Site bearing No.16, in Katha No.369/99 of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), situated at Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk. Measuring East-West: 50'-0" Feet North-South: 12'-5" Feet in all measuring 625 Sq.feet and **Bounded on: East by:** 15 feet road, **West by:** Bande, **North by:** Property No.17, **South by:** Property No.15.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 09-12-2024	**Rs.7,44,070.92** (Rupees Seven Lakh Forty Four Thousand Seventy and Ninety Two Paisa Only) **due as on 08-12-2024**
3	1) Mr. Gangaiah C, 2) Mrs. Manjula N	Loan Account No. 46459630000693 46459410000236 46459360008820 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.70,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.157/30, Khatha ID No.150300400901020050, situated at Appasandra Village, Hoskote Block, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Doddanallala Gram Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** 27, **West by:** Road, **North by:** 31, **South by:** 29. Measuring East to West: 12.192 Mtr and North to South: 9.144 Mtr, in all measuring 111.48 Sq.mtrs.	Date of NPA: 28-09-2024 Demand Notice Date: 16-12-2024	**Rs.8,50,481.60** (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty One and Sixty Paisa Only) **due as on 11-12-2024**
4	1) Mr. Siddaraju A G, 2) Mrs. Madevamma	Loan Account No. 45359630001372 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for Property No.C, Property No.25, Sl.No.40, Khatha No.40/25/C, measuring East to West 25 feet and North to South 41 feet, totally measuring 1025 Sq.feet, situated at Ajjegowdanavalase Village, Thokasandra Gram Panchayath, MaralavadiHobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** 25 Feet of Pathway Road, **West by:** Property belongs to Puttarayamma, **North by:** Property belongs to Saraswathamma, **South by:** Property belongs to Saraswathamma. Measuring East to West: 7.61999 Mtr and North to South: 12.49679 Mtr.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 16-12-2024	**Rs.4,35,949.06** (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Nine and Six Paisa Only) **due as on 12-12-2024**
5	1) Mr. Yogesh S, 2) Mr. Siddaraju	Loan Account No. 47059440000400 Loan Amount: Rs.4,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece andparcel of the property bearing Khaneshumari No.171/46, measuring East to West 40 Feet North to South 30 Feet, Situated at Thoredoddi Village, Ittamadu Dhakale, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Land belongs to Ramaiah, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belongs to Siddaraju, **South by:** Property belongs to Chandra.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 16-12-2024	**Rs.3,08,316.72** (Rupees Three Lakh Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen and Seventy Two Paisa Only) **due as on 12-12-2024**
6	1) M/s. F K Auto Engineering Works, Represented by its Proprietor **Mr. Khadir Ahmed,** 2) Mr. Khadir Ahmed, Also at: M/s. F K Auto Engineering Works, 3) Mrs. Shanaz Begam	Loan Account No. 30198645912911 30199660000802 4751020000405698 Loan Amount: Rs.20,50,000/- Rs.3,80,000/- Rs.5,15,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Northern Side Residential Potion of Site No.30, Present Corporation No.30, situated at 30th Cross Road, Byrasandra Tank Bund Area, 4th East Jayanagara, Bangalore 62nd Ward of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike. The Unique Property ID No.(PID) allotted to this property is 62-93-30. Measuring East to West 20 Feet and North to South 14 ½ feet and **Bounded on the: East by:** Site No.31, **West by:** Site No.29, **North by:** Site No.85, **South by:** Remaining portion of same property 4 x15 ½ feet passage left by the Mohammed Khan to the Schedule Property this passage is belong to the Releasee only. Measuring East to West 4 Feet and North to South 15 ½ feet and. **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.31, **West by:** Remaining portion of the same property, **North by:** Remaining portion of the same property sold to Fayaz Ahmed (the husband of the releasee), **South by:** Road. Property situated as "L" Shape, total measuring 352 Sq.ft. Together with 2 Square ACC sheet roofing house thereon, brick and cement wall, red oxide flooring, doors and windows are made out of jungle wood with all civic amenities.	Date of NPA: 03-05-2024 Demand Notice Date: 11-12-2024	**Rs.25,33,759.51** (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Nine and Paisa Fifty One Only) **as on 09-12-2024**
7	1) Mr. Ravi K P, 2) Mr. Puttaiah Shetty	Loan Account No: 47049610000050 47049970000012 Loan Amount: Rs.20,20,000/- Rs.1,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing CMC Khatha No.1189/6013, measuring East to West 18 Feet and North to South 59 ½ feet totally measuring 1071 Sq.feet, situated at Dharmaraj Works Shop Road, Kanakapura CMC, Kanakapura Town, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, Ward No.18 and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Murthy Rao, **West by:** Property belongs to Sri Ramakrishna, **North by:** Property belongs to Sri Srinivas, **South by:** Pathway and house belongs to Dasappa.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 05-12-2024	**Rs.21,10,902.60** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Two and Paisa Sixty Only) **due as on 02-12-2024**
8	1) M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd., Represented by it's Directors **Mr. Afzal Ur Rahaman and Mrs. Farha Sultana,** 2) Mr. Afzal Ur Rahaman, Director of M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd. Also at: M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd., 3) Mrs. S Farha Sultana, Director of M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd., Also at: M/s. Urbocrew Service Pvt. Ltd., 4) Mrs. Mehrunnisa, W/o. Mr. Afzal Ur Rahaman, 5) Mr. Ajmal Pasha	Loan Account No: 47468640000148 Loan Amount: Rs.43,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property bearing Residential Vacant Site No.17, Khatha No.30/17, situated at Bellahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Presently coming under the Jurisdiction of the Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike New Ward No.5, Measuring East to West: 40-00 feet and North to South: 30-00 feet, in total measuring: 1200 Sq.feet and **Bounded as follows: East by:** 20 Feet Road, **West by:** Site No.20, **North by:** Site No.16 & **South by:** Property belongs to Afzal Ur Rahaman (Site No.18).	Date of NPA: 01-06-2024 Demand Notice Date: 09-12-2024	**Rs.47,36,239.00** (Rupees Forty Seven Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Nine Only) **due as on 08-12-2024**
9	1) Mr. Saravana K, Also at: M/s. Sri Maruthi Wholesale Chicken Centre, 2) Mrs. Manjula	Loan Account No: 45359610000044 33879800000389 Loan Amount: Rs.9,00,000/- Rs.97,106/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.469, Sy.No.14, Ward 198, situated at Ganakallu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Presently within the limit of BBMP and **Bounded on the: East by:** Site No.470, **West by:** Site No.468, **North by:** Site No.447 and 448, **South by:** Road. Measuring East to West 15 Ft and Northto South 40 Ft total measuring 600 Sq.ft.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 05-12-2024	**Rs.9,47,749.00** (Rupees Nine Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Nine Only) **due as on 02-12-2024**
10	1) Mr. Srinivasa 2) Mrs. Anitha R	Loan Account No. 46459430000051 46459410001022 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Serial No.62, Property No.71, situated at Ganjarlahalli Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, now comes under the jurisdiction of Shivanapura Village Panchayath and **Bounded on the: East by:** Property of Nanjamma, **West by:** Property of Krishnappa, **North by:** Remaining Portion, **South by:** Remaining Portion & Road. Measuring 33 X 67 feet.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 05-12-2024	**Rs.9,54,337.33** (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Seven and Thirty Three Paisa Only) **due as on 02-12-2024**
11	1) M/s. Vasushree Construction Solution, Represented by its Partners **Mr. Srinivasa D & Mrs. Vanitha K,** 2) Mr. Srinivasa D, Partner of M/s. Vasushree Construction Solution, Also at: M/s. Vasushree Construction Solution. 3) Mrs. Vanitha K, Partner of M/s. Vasushree Construction Solution, Also at: M/s. Vasushree Construction Solution	Loan Account No. 45348640001318 45349660000172 46459660000012 45349660002001 474602000218674 Loan Amount: Rs.99,00,000/- Rs.11,95,200/- Rs.9,88,222/- Rs.6,50,000/- Rs.30,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property: Property-1:** All that piece and parcel of site bearing No.59, having E Khatha No.150300401000120721, Property No.355/59, Junjuru No.355, Panchayath Khatha No.355, situated at Kannur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.58, **West by:** Site No.60, **North by:** Site No.44, **South by:** 20 Feet Road. Measuring East to West: 9.144 Meters and North to South: 12.194 Meters, totally measuring 111.48 Sq.mtrs. **Property-2:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Converted Site bearing No.60, vide Village Panchayath Khatha No.356/357/60 and now new E-Khatha No.150300401000102379, measuring East to West: 30 Ft and North to South: 40 Ft in all measuring 1,200 Sq.ft. and same has been converted for residential use vide Memorandum dated 20/02/1996 vide bearing No.BDS.ALN(H)SR16/1995-96 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, wherein an approval layout plan has been accorded by the Urban and Rural Development Authority vide its sanction Letter bearing No.33/1995-96, dated 23-03-1996, situated at Kannurhalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.59, **West by:** Site No.61, **North by:** Site No.43 & 44, **South by:** Twenty Feet Road. **Property-3:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site property bearing No.05, having Hoskote Municipality Khatha vide bearing No.291/291/1, vide conversion bearing No.ALN(H)SR48/2005-2006 dated 20.05.2005, Situated at Sri M Vishweswaraiah Layout, beside Southern portion of C.S.I Hospital, Hoskote Town, Banglore Rural District-562114, measuring East to West: 45 Feet and North to South: 50 Feet, totally measuring 2250 Square feet and **Bounded on: East by:** Remaining converted property of Sy.No.291 belong to Smt. Jyamma, **West by:** 20 Feet Road, **North by:** 30 Feet Road, **South by:** Site No.04.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 16-12-2024	**Rs. 1,16,83,494.76** (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Four and Paisa Seventy Six Only) **as on 12-12-2024**
12	1) Mrs. Savithri, 2) Mr. Manjunatha, 3) Mrs. Aishwarya N	Loan Account No. 31889630000978 31889410000840 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.I35/26/16, E-Katha ID No.150200400200200240, situated at Kannuru Village, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, Presently comes under the limits of Kannuru Gram Panchayath and **Bounded on: East by:** Government Road, **West by:** Government Property, **North by:** Property belongs to Pokaram, **South by:** Government Road. Measuring East to West: 9.144 Mtrs and North to South: 9.144Mtrs, in all measuring 83.61 Sq.mtrs.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 16-12-2024	**Rs.9,77,711.51** (Rupees Nine Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven and Fifty One Paisa Only) **due as on 12-12-2024**

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 26.12.2024, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EEE/AEE/MWD/CHN/2024-25/862-65 **Dated:18.12.2024**

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has formulated a scheme under section 28 and clause (e) of section 18 of the Indian Electricity Supply Act 1948 and the scheme is herewith published in pursuance of section 29(2) of the said act and also under Indian Electricity Act 2003 section 67 to be read with 67(2), this notification is issued for information of the General public. Particulars of scheme are as here under.

1. Name of the work : Establishing 2X12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Sub-Station at **Horeyala(Arepura)** and construction of 66kV LILO line on 110kV DC towers from existing 66kV Nanjanagud - Begur DC line to proposed 66/11kV **Horeyala(Arepura)** sub-station for a distance of **0.235 kms** in Gundlupete Taluk, Chamarajanagar District.

Salient Feature : Improvement of Voltage and to meet future load growth and to improve un-interrupted/reliable power supply and voltage stability in and around Horeyala, Hosapura, Rangapura, Bettadapura, Arepura, Onakanapura, Gundulpete Taluk, Chamarajanagar District.

66 KV Line Passing Through Arepura villages Survey Nos 92,70,71,72,73 And Its limits.

- **Approximate length line** : 0.235Kms.
- **Approximate cost** : 1362.04 Lakhs

2.Name of the work : Construction of proposed 66kV LILO line on 110KV DC Narrow Based Towers from existing 66kV Chamarajanagara - Gundlupete DC Line (Circuit-2) to the proposed 66/11kV **S/S VEERANAPURA** for a distance of **0.223km** in Chamarajanagara Taluk and District.

Salient Feature : Improvement of Voltage and to meet future load growth in Veeranapura, Udigala, Nanjadevana pura, Kalapura and around Harve hobli in Chamaraja Nagara Taluk & District.

66 KV Line Passing Through Veeranapura (Survey No-80) and surrounding Limits.

- **Approximate length line** : 0.223 Kms.
- **Approximate cost** : 1394.68 lakhs.

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers under the section 164 of Indian Electricity Act 2003 read with Para (iii) of the Indian Telegraph act 1885 (10 to 19 & 19A of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objection regarding the above scheme shall be sent to the under signed office within **One month** from the date of Publication of this notification for consideration by Corporation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele),
Chamarajanagara Major Works, Division, KPTCL,
N.R.Mohalla, Mysore - 570 007.

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

Phone no. 0674-2431253, e-mail: info@bmc.gov.in

No.52459/ BMC, BBSR **Dated.20/12/2024**

XXXXX-II-SWMPMU-143/2024-25

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

C-1323: On behalf of the Commissioner, BhubanesWar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation), BMC invites tenders through e-Procurement in conformity with terms and conditions of the tender document in Two Bid System (Part-I): General & Technical Bid and Part II: Financial Bid /Price Bid/ BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria and other qualifying requirements mentioned in this tender document for ***"Mechanical Sweeping and Allied Cleaning of Select Road Stretches under Package-III of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation for a period of three years"***. Each bid should be submitted online through the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in by eligible bidders. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment (Digital Signature Certificate) under e-procurement process of Govt. of Odisha in required class/category. For queries, if any on this tender document, intending bidders may contact Deputy Commissioner (Sanitation), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Bhubaneswar during office hours.

1. Schedule of Events:

Sl. No	Description	Critical Dates
1.	Period of availability of tender document for bidding.	From 23.12.2024 (Time- 11.00 AM) to Dt.22.01.2025 (Time 5.00 PM)
2.	Pre- Bid Meeting	Dt. 03.01.2025 Time 12.00 Noon
3.	Submission of Pre-bid queries by bidders to email id: dc-sanitation@bmc.gov.in	Dt.04.01.2025 Up to 5.00 PM
4.	Last date and time for submission of proposal on online mode	Dt.22.01.2025 (5.00 PM)
5.	Date & Time of opening of proposal	Dt.24.01.2025 (12.00 Noon)

2. Other details can be seen in the bidding document available in website tendersodisha.gov.in (for view, download and bidding) and in BMC Website www.bmc.gov.in (for view and download only).
3. All amendments, Clarifications, time extension etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
4. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof subject to the limitations prescribed by Central Vigilance Commission.

By Order of Commissioner, BMC

OIPR-13002/11/0122/2425 Sd/- Dy Commissioner (Sanitation), Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before the Central Government (Regional Director, South East Region, Hyderabad)

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of **KUNNISSERY PLANTATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **Jyotsna Gogineni, 327, 4th Block, 7th A Main, Koramangala, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560034,** Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **14th August 2024** to enable the company to change its Registered office from **"State of Karnataka"** to **"State of Tamil Nadu"**.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver **either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form** or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address **3rd Floor, Corporate Bhawan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad – 500068** within Fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

Jyotsna Gogineni, 327, 4th Block, 7th A Main, Koramangala, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560034

For and on behalf of Kunnissery Plantations Private Limited
Sd/-
C J Vikram, Director.
DIN: 02504058

Date: 18/12/2024
Place : Karnataka

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, Smt.Nagamani, residing at Janatha Colony, Arvanthigepura, Bestamaranahalli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District has lost the Original Gift Deed dated 28.02.2019, executed by Ramakka in favour of her daughter Nagamani, registered as document No.SRJ-1-05861/2018-19, in Book I and stored in CD No.SRJD308, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Sarjapura, Bangalore, in respect of the property bearing Site No.19, E-Khatha No.150200102200220456, measuring East to West 12.19 mts and North to South 9.14 mts, in all measuring 111.42 Sq.mts, in the layout known as **"PAVANS BRUNDAVAN"** formed in Sy.No.17. A police complaint dated 20.09.2023 is lodged in this regard. If any person finds the same may kindly be delivered to the undersigned or to my client. Any person unauthorisly holding the same and dealing with the same in the respect of the above property in any manner, the same will not be binding on my clients. In this behalf if any person having any Objections or claims can lodge the same with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within **Fifteen days** of this Notice. Later on the same will not be entertained and my client proceed to deal with said property as she like.

Place: Bangalore
Dated: 26.12.2024
H. D. BASAPPA, Advocate
"G.R.COMPLEX", # 31, 1st Floor, Service Road, Domlur Layout, Opp. BBMP Office, Domlur, Bangalore-560 071
Mobile : 9986349626
E-Mail :basappahd2018@gmail.com

HG- 10.01.2025

IN THE COURT OF XXX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH -31)

P & SC NO. 669 OF 2024

PETITIONER :

PAVAN KUMAR MALLIKARJUN, Son of Late S. Mallikarjun, Aged About 50 years, Residing at 16 Croftdown Road Harborne Birmingham B17 8RB, United Kingdom bearing PAN No. AZDPM0787G and Passport No 536554265 & #624, 4th Main Raod, 2nd Stage, W O C Raod, Mahalakshmi Puram, Bangalore North, Mahalakshmipuram Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka 560086

VS

RESPONDENT : NIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above named has made petition to this court under Section 276 of Indian Succession Act for grant of Probate of Will dated 06.01.2024 in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule was held by late Sri. S. Mallikarjun father of Petitioner herein who expired on 17.06.2024.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed **on 10.01.2025 at CCH-31, at 11:00 a.m.** to inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential house bearing No.624 formed by C.I.T.B presently B.D.A, in the West of Chord Road, II Stage Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560086 measuring east to west 60 feet and north to south 50 feet and bounded as follows: East: Site No. 635 and 636, West: 4th Main Road, North: Site No. 625, South: Site No. 623 The Residential property includes ground floor, rear portion in the ground floor, first floor and second floor. The ground floor includes a 2-bedroom dwelling at the front and a one-bedroom dwelling at the back. The first floor has a three- bedroom dwelling. The second floor has a bedsit with attached kitchenette and bathroom.

Bank accounts and Fixed Deposits as follows:

i) Bank of Baroda, West of Chord Road Branch bearing A/c No. 89960100009028 Including its Cash Balance. Currently nominated to Kusuma Mallikarjuna, W/o S. Mallikarjun

ii) State Bank of India, Rajajinagar 2nd Block Bengaluru No. 2040, 19th Main Road. Bearing A/c No. 10838757055 Including its Cash Balance. Currently nominated to Kusuma Mallikarjuna, W/o S. Mallikarjun

iii) Basaveshwaranagar Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., Bearing A/c No. 0010220006375 Including its Cash Balance. Currently nominated to Kusuma Mallikarjuna, W/o S. Mallikarjun

iv) Basaveshwaranagar Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., Fixed Deposit Account number - 1120024816 Membership number: 112038568 Nominee: Currently Kusuma Mallikarjuna.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 16/12/2024.

By order of the Court, Senior Shirastedar City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Addresses For Service: Akshatha M Patel Aarde Law Chambers
12/3A, 4th Floor, Nanda Gokula, Yamuna Bai Rd, Madhava Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001. Ph No: 9845765540
Email: info@aardelawchambers.com

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING

एक परिवार एक बैंक

Zonal Office, Bengaluru : No. 465/A, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Opp: NMKRV College for Women, Jayanagar Bengaluru - 560011
TELE : :080-29509922/33 | **email:** cmmarc_ban@mahabank.co.in
Head Office : Lokmangal,1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-5

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties (Appendix IV-A)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s & Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"**, and **"Whatever there is"** on **28.01.2025**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of Borrower/s & Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under –

Sr. No.	Name and address of Borrower/s & Guarantor/s	Outstanding dues as on 19.12.2024	Short description of immovable property	Possession Type	Encumbrances known to the bank	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit
1.	**Branch: Indiranagar (M-9015129778)** **Borrower:** **M/s. Kakuda Infra Pvt. Ltd.** No.1014, 4th Block, 6th Cross Road, 1st Stage, HBR Layout, Bengaluru-560 043 **Guarantor/s:** **1. Mr. Shakthi Venkatesh Maheshwari** Flat No.102, Ground Floor, Brindavan Apartments, Ashokapuram Main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560 086 **2. Mr. Venkata Bramahaiah Kutala** House No.14, Pooja Gardens, Anjanya Swamy Temple, Channasandra, Bangalore-560016 **3. Mrs. Mamatha, W/o Raja @ Raju SC** **4. Mr. Raja @ Raju SC** Both resided at No.25, Village-Suggatta, Hunasamaranahalli, Hosahalli, Bengaluru-562 157	**Rs.9,08,49,812.00 (Rupees Nine Crore Eight Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twelve Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 20.12.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All that piece and parcel of residential Land bearing Site No.17 & 18, Assessment No.183/3, Khatha No.674/633/1/17 & 674/633/2/18 admeasuring area 2760 sq. ft. (Site No.17: 1260 sq. ft. & Site No.18: 1500 sq. ft.) with residential building consisting of G+3 constructed thereon admeasuring built up area 2000 sq. ft. in each Floor lying and situated at Village-Hunasamaranahalli, Suggata Road, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru-562 157. All that piece and parcel of residential cum commercial Land bearing Survey No.192/7 admeasuring area 2400 sq. ft. with building consisting of G+3 constructed thereon admeasuring built up area 1750 sq. ft. in each Floor lying and situated at Village-Hunasamaranahalli, Suggata Road, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru-562 157 and the property is butted and bounded as under- On or towards North : By Land belongs to Muthappa. On or towards South : By Suggatta Road. On or towards East : By Land belongs to Muniraju. On or towards West : By Remaining portion of property.	Symbolic	NIL	**Rs.314.84 Lakh** **Rs.235.95 Lakh**	**Rs.31.48 Lakh** **Rs.23.60 Lakh**
2.	**Branch: SSI Rajajinagar (M-9666668395)** **Borrowers:** **1. Mr. M Kumar (Prop. Of M/s. Sri Maruthi Process)** **2. Mrs. Leelavathi, W/o Mr. M Kumar** **Both resided at** 15/1, Munikrishnappa Layout, 2nd Cross, I-E Main Road, Basaveshwara Road, Malagalu, Bangalore-560072	**Rs.97,17,307.00 (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakh Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred Seven Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 20.12.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All that pieces and parcels of land & building bearing Site No.24, Municipal No.15/1, Survey No.38 & 39, Khata No.243 in the Western portion of the site admeasuring area 612.50 sq. ft. lying & situated at Village-Malagalu, Tashvantpura Hobli, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560 072 and the property is butted and bounded as under- On or towards North : By Road. On or towards South : By Private Property. On or towards the East : By Remaining portion of Municipal No.15 & Eastern Portion belongs to C Ramnath Reddy. On or towards the West : By Property No.25.	Symbolic	NIL	**Rs.101.00 Lakh**	**Rs.10.10 Lakh**
3.	**Branch: Chamrajpet (M-9688671010)** **Borrower/s:** **1. Mrs. Rashmei Sharma** **2. Mr. Aayoush Sharma** **Both resided at** No. A-502, Tower-2, Aspen-A Wing, Godrej Woodsman Estate, Near Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal Main Road, Bangalore-560 024 **Guarantor:** **Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma** No. A-502, Tower-2, Aspen-A Wing, Godrej Woodsman Estate, Near Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal Main Road, Bangalore-560 024	**Rs.57,24,795.00 (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 20.12.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All that piece and parcel of 3BHK residential property (land & building) bearing Flat No.302 admeasuring area 1342 sq. ft. (super built-up) on 3rd Floor in the apartment named "Shri Sai Shanthi Nilaya" with undivided share of the land of 230 sq. ft. out of total area of the land 5600 sq. ft. of the land bearing No.21 & 22, Old Khatha No.582/01/21 & 22, New Khatha No.31/33/21 & 383/585/0/22 lying and situated at Ward No.8, near State Bank of India & Ring Road, Balaji Layout, Kodigehali Main Road, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore-560 094 and the Flat is butted and bounded as under- On or towards North : By Flat No.301. On or towards South : By Private Property (Open to Sky). On or towards East : By Private Property (Open to Sky). On or towards West : By Flat No.304.	Symbolic	One Transaction made after our mortgage	**Rs.45.48 Lakh**	**Rs.4.55 Lakh**
4.	**Branch: Brigade Road (M-8903788479)** **Borrowers:** **Mr. Mohan Kumar P** **Guarantor:** **Mr. Puttanna M** Both resided at # 115B/1, Near Chowdeshwari Temple, Tilak Circle, Anekal, Bangalore-562 106	**Rs.16,83,413.00 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Four Hundred Thirteen Only)** plus further interest w.e.f. 20.12.2024 plus all costs, penalty, charges and expenses or other incidental charges thereof.	All that piece and parcel of Land & Building bearing Survey No.81/259, 81A259A, 82/259A, 83/260 & 83A/8260A admeasuring area 3540 sq. ft. consisting of 20 rooms on Ground & 1st Floor lying and situated at 2 Cross, Sipaygalli, Near Chowdeshwari Temple, Police Station, Tal-Anekal, Dist.-Bengaluru, Pin-562 106 and the property is butted and bounded as under- On or towards North : By Property belonging to same Khatha No.83/260 & 83A/260A. On or towards South : By Road. On or towards East : By Property belonging to Venkatachallaiah. On or towards West : By Property belonging to Ammayya and Lalasab.	Symbolic	NIL	**Rs.153.00 Lakh**	**Rs.15.30 Lakh**

- **Date of E-Auction & Time: 28/01/2025 between 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm.**
- **Property Inspection Date & Time: 22/01/2025 to 27/01/2025 with prior appointment.**
- **Last Date & Time for submission of Bid/EMD : 28/01/2025 upto 1.00 pm.**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in website of Bank of Maharashtra i.e. **"https://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/properties for sale" & "https://ebkray.in".**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower/s and guarantor/s above named are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 24.12.2024 | Place : Bangalore **Sd/-, Authorized Officer Bank of Maharashtra, Bangalore Zone**

The Orissa High Court on Tuesday directed the Odisha Public Service Commission to revise the result of two candidates who had appeared for the written examination for recruitment of 105 homeopathic medical officers in the Group-B rank in December last but failed to qualify

SFI members protest outside Anna University in Chennai on Wednesday | EXPRESS

UNIVERSITY STUDENT RAPED INSIDE CAMPUS IN CHENNAI, ONE HELD

37-yr-old accused is a roadside biryani vendor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

AN undergraduate student of Anna University was allegedly sexually assaulted inside the university campus in Guindy on Monday night. Following an investigation based on the girl's complaint, the Greater Chennai Police (GCP) on Wednesday arrested 37-year-old Gnanasekaran, a roadside biryani vendor, from nearby Kotturpuram. The issue came to light on Wednesday after the survivor lodged a complaint with the Kotturpuram All-Women Police Station (AWPS).

According to the complaint, the incident took place when the girl was chatting with her male friend around 8pm at a deserted spot inside the expansive 189-acre campus of the engineering university.

Gnanasekaran, who came to the spot, threatened and assaulted the girl and her friend, the complaint said. After her friend fled the spot, the accused allegedly forced the survivor to perform sexual acts and raped her.

Police are yet to ascertain how Gnanasekaran entered the campus premises.

"We are investigating the case in coordination with Anna University's internal complaints committee (ICC-POSH), which has also initiated a probe," an official statement from the police said.

Four special teams were formed under the Kotturpuram assistant commissioner of police to investigate the case. Gnanasekaran was arrested based on scientific evidence, police said. A case was registered under Sections 63, 64 and 75 of the BNSS, which deal with rape and sexual harassment, the statement added.

According to sources, the accused has confessed to the police, who are also investigating if he was involved in similar crimes in the past.

The city police said a joint security review, especially with regard to the presence of CCTV cameras, will be conducted along with the university's security officers and appropriate action will be taken to improve students' safety.

Anna University Registrar J Prakash, in a statement, said the varsity has been extending full cooperation to the police in its investigation.

AIADMK general secretary and former chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami expressed shock over the incident and said it is "shameful" that such an atrocity befalls a student at Anna University located in the heart of the capital city. Comparing it with the Nirbhaya incident, Edappadi K Palaniswami alleged it highlighted the deterioration of law and order under Chief Minister MK Stalin.

3 soldiers from K'taka among 5 killed in J&K accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi, Udupi

OF the five soldiers of the 11th Battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry who died after their vehicle fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Balnoi area of Mendhar in Poonch sector on Tuesday, three hailed from Karnataka.

The soldiers from Karnataka have been identified as Subedar Dayanand Tirkannavar (44) from Honnihal in Belagavi district, Sepoy Mahesh Nagappa Marigonda (25) from Mahalingapura in Rabakavi Banahatti taluk in Bagalkot district, and Lance Havaldar Anoop Poojary (33) from Beejady in Kundapur taluk of Udupi district.

Subedar Tirkannavar, who was leading the team, was to retire next year after serving in the Army for the last 25 years. He is survived by his parents, wife, and two children. His father, a retired postman, served in Sambra village for 30 years before settling down in Honnihal. Tirkannavar maintained a deep connection with Sambra, visiting often, including during the recent Lakshmi Devi pilgrimage.

The tragic news was withheld from most family members, including his wife, until Wednesday evening to spare them immediate grief.

Mahesh Marigonda had been serving in the 11th Maratha Regiment for the last six years. He is survived by his wife, Lakshmi, mother, a younger sister and a younger brother. He married Lakshmi three years ago.

Mahesh's untimely demise has left the town of Mahalingapura in deep mourning. The mortal remains of Tirkannavar and Marigonda will reach Belagavi on Thursday and be sent to their respective villages.

The mangled remains of the Army vehicle that fell into a gorge on Tuesday

Poojary returned to work only on Tuesday

A pall of gloom descended on Beejady in Kundapur taluk of Udupi district following the demise of its beloved son, Lance Havaldar Anoop Poojary (33). Poojary had joined the Army 13 years ago. He is survived by his mother, two elder sisters, wife, and a daughter who is one and a half years old.

From a very young age, Poojary had displayed valour and was a sportsman too, his relative Ashok Poojary Beejady said. Beejady added that Poojary had done well as an NCC cadet and joined the Army after PUC. In his 13 years of service, he mostly served in Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur and informed his family that he would be transferred to Gujarat in three months.

"He was also planning his post-retirement life," Beejady added.

Poojary was the son of the late Narayan Poojary and Chandu Poojarthi and leaves behind his wife, Manjushree, and daughter, Eshanvi. Poojary had come to his village to participate in Kodi Habba, a famous festival at Kotilingeshwara Temple in Koteshwara near Kundapur, just 10 days ago, and left for J&K only three days back. The tragedy struck on the day he returned to duty.

(Clockwise from top) Subedar Dayanand Tirkannavar, Sepoy Mahesh Marigonda and Lance Havaldar Anoop Poojary

His mortal remains reached Mangaluru International Airport from Belagavi at 1 am on Thursday.

The mortal remains will reach Thekatte at 9 am on Thursday and then taken to Beejady in a procession.

The soldier's mortal remains will be kept at the Government Primary School in Beejady Padu, where he studied, for the public to pay their homage. The last rites will be performed near Beejady seashore, family sources said.

SEEKING BLESSINGS

Kerala Minister VN Vasavan garlands 'Thanka Anki', a golden attire, which was brought to Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district for 'Mandala Puja', on Wednesday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

Low pressure brings rain to Chennai, more showers till December 31

CHENNAI: The pleasant weather is likely to continue over Chennai for a few more days as light to moderate rains have been forecast through this week due to the low pressure area. The well-marked low pressure now lies over west central and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal off south Andhra Pradesh and North Tamil Nadu coasts and it is likely to weaken gradually into a low pressure over the same region during next 24 hours. Light to moderate rains are likely till December 31.

128 kg ganja bound for Sri Lanka seized from car in Thanjavur

Thanjavur: A total of 128 kg of ganja smuggled from Kerala allegedly for onward shipment to Sri Lanka was seized from a car in Thanjavur on Wednesday. On Wednesday, the Orathanadu police was conducting checks at Thennamanadu when a car sped past them even after signalling the driver to stop. The Pappanadu police was alerted after which personnel there intercepted the car and four passengers in the car were detained and a search led to the discovery of 63 ganja packets.

MT Vasudevan Nair, doyen of Malayalam lit & cinema, passes away

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'Puram/Kozhikode

LEGENDARY Malayalam literatuer MT Vasudevan Nair who attained iconic proportions in both Malayalam cinema and literature through his wide canvas of literary creations, passed away on Wednesday. He was 91.

A Padma Bhushan awardee, MT etched himself into history as a novelist, short story writer, screenplay writer, filmographer and literary editor during his seven decade long literary career. He has been chosen for almost all major literary awards including the Jnanpith, Kendra Sahitya Akademi award, Kerala Sahitya Academy award, Ezhuthachan award and JC Daniel honour.

MT was admitted to the hospital after he experienced respiratory issues 11 days ago and he suffered a cardiac arrest on December 20. But MT's condition turned very critical on Wednesday night and he breathed his last at 10 pm.

Madath Thekkepaattu Vasudevan Nair was born on 15 July in 1933 in Kudallur, a small village in Palakkad district, Kerala. His father, Madathil Narayanan Nair was based in Ceylon, and hence he was closer to his mother, Ammalu Amma. In 1953 he obtained a degree in chemistry from Victoria College, Palakkad. He later taught at Pattambi Board High School and Chavakkad Board High School for over a year and also worked in M B Tutorial College, Palakkad in 1955- 56. He even worked as a gramasevak. In 1957 he joined Mathrubhumi Weekly as a journalist. After more than 38 years in journalism, he retired as the editor of Mathrubhumi Periodicals in 1997. MT always rued about being unable to become a lecturer due to lack of requisite qualifications. He believed it would have allowed him more time for his literary pursuits.

MT VASUDEVAN NAIR
1933 - 2024

MT started writing during his school days. He used to write for Jayakeralam Magazine. In 1952, during his college days, his first book Raktham Puranda Mantharikal was published. During his final year in college he shot to fame, when he won the prize for the best short story in Malayalam at the World Short Story Competition conducted by The New York Herald Tribune, The Hindustan Times and Mathrubhumi for his story Valarthu Mrigangal. His novel Nalukettu, bagged the Kerala Sahitya Academy Award in 1958.

MT took his first step into the film industry in 1963-1964 with the script for the movie Murappennu (1965), which was an adaptation of his own story Snehathinte Mukhangal. Nirmalyam, the first film he directed, won the President's Gold Medal in1973. MT directed 8 movies and wrote scripts for more than 50 movies.

He was also honoured with the highest literary award, the Jnanpith in 1995.

FROM JAN 9

TTD to issue free tokens for Vaikunta Dwara Darshan

ENS @ Tirupati

THE Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer (EO) Syamala Rao announced that free tokens for Vaikunta Dwara Darshan will be issued starting from 5 am on January 9, 2025.

A total of 1.20 lakh Sarva Darshan tokens will be distributed for the first three days (January 10, 11, and 12). Tokens for subsequent days will be issued the day prior.

Tokens will be issued at the following eight locations in Tirupati: Ramachandra Pushkarini, Bhudevi Complex, Jeevakona High School, Municipal Ground, Srinivasam, Vishnunivasam, Ramanaidu School in Bairagipatteda, and MR Palli School. Additionally, for local residents in Tirumala, tokens will be distributed at the Community Hall in Balaji Nagar.

A total of 91 counters, including 87 in Tirupati and 4 in Tirumala, will facilitate token distribution. Devotees must present their Aadhaar cards to receive tokens. Photo identification slips will be issued to those obtaining tokens, and devotees without tokens will not be allowed darshan during the 10 days.

Stringent security measures have been implemented across Tirupati. Special arrangements have been made at dedicated locations within the city for issuing tokens to devotees. Superintendent of Police (SP) L Subbarayudu has directed officials to tour the ticket issuance centres, anticipate the rush, and ensure robust security, including barricading.

TOLLYWOOD TEAM TO MEET REVANTH TODAY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

A delegation from the Telugu film industry, including actors, directors and producers, led by Telangana Film Development Corporation (TGFDC) Chairman Dil Raju will meet Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Thursday at Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), at 10 am. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha and Minister of Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy are likely to join the Chief Minister during the meeting.

This development comes in the wake of the state government announcing that it would not give permission for benefit shows and hike ticket rates following the Hyderabad police registering a criminal case against *Pushpa 2* actor Allu Arjun and Mythri Movie Makers for the stampede at the Sandhya Theatre in which a woman, M Revathi died, and her son Sri Tej suffered injuries.

Dil Raju told media persons on Wednesday that the chief minister gave the delegation an appointment to meet him. He was speaking after visiting Sri Tej at KIMS hospital along with Allu Arjun's father Allu Arvind and other film personalities. "We will meet the CM and as the TGFDC chairman, I will play my role as a bridge between the government and the film industry to improve our relations," he said.

Meanwhile, Allu Arvind gave two cheques — one for ₹ 1 crore on behalf of Allu Arjun and ₹50 lakh on behalf of Pushpa director Sukumar — to the TGFDC chairman to be handed over to the father of Sri Tej. This was part of the ₹2 crore financial assistance announced by the Pushpa filmmakers on Tuesday for the family of deceased Revathi, who died in the stampede on December 4. Arvind said that Mythri Movie Makers had already given ₹50 lakh to Sri Tej's father two days ago.

India's rise to 3rd largest economy not possible without farmers, says V-P

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Medak

PREDICTING India's rise to the third-largest economy in the world, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Wednesday said that it can only be made possible with the improved participation of the farming communities, who, he termed "great contributors to the economy".

Along with Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, the V-P visited Tunki village in Kowdipally mandal and interacted with farmers. He enquired about the methods they use in organic farming. "The families of 655 farmers have made history by embracing organic farming. They have set an example for others to follow. I invite them to New Delhi to be my guests for three days," said Dhankhar, highlighting that India is progressing on the path of development with a strong focus on rural areas.

He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been working with the spirit of Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," expanded to "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan and Jai Anusandhan". Dhankhar also mentioned that Modi's "Vocal for Local" slogan is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's "Swadeshi" movement.

Vice-President Jagadeep Dhankhar interacts with organic farmers and residents at Thuniki village in Medak district, Telangana, on Wednesday | EXPRESS

"Every village should function as a self-sustained unit, with farmers selling their produce locally. This approach benefits both farmers and consumers. It is crucial to ensure that schemes designed to benefit farmers are implemented effectively by creating awareness. Farmers should also leverage solar energy for their advantage and focus on expanding organic farming," Dhankhar added.

Governor Varma observed that farmers are gradually transitioning to organic farming. He praised the efforts of the Ekalavya KVK Foundation in encouraging this shift.

'DIGITAL ARREST'

After 135 scams, man in police net

SIDDHARTH PRABHAKAR @ Chennai

INVESTIGATION by the Avadi police into a cybercrime where ₹38 lakh was swindled from a retired college lecturer in a 'digital arrest' scam has led the cops to an accused whose 13 bank accounts were used in at least 135 similar scams. The accused may have been involved in cheating multiple victims of several crores of rupees through these scams and the illegal proceeds could have been laundered, sources said.

Police said that in July, Veppanchavadi resident Mary Janet was 'digitally arrested' by scamsters pretending to be officers of 'CBI', 'ED' and 'Mumbai cyber crime'. They extorted ₹38.16 lakh of her funds under the guise of 'checking if the source of the money was legal'. This has been the modus operandi used in several such scams across India. During probe, the team led by Avadi cybercrime inspector Pravin Kumar found that ₹5 lakh of Mary Janet's money had been transferred to

one mule account belonging to the accused Y Bijoy (33), a resident of Anna Nagar in Chennai. Probing further, they found that Bijoy was operating at least 13 accounts in the name of his mother, wife, friends and relatives. Some were also in the name of total strangers living far away in bank branches at least 15-20 km away.

Data from the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCCRP) showed that these 13 accounts operated by Bijoy were involved in at least 135 complaints filed by residents from across India regarding cyber scams of a similar magnitude totally amounting to several crores. Apart from digital arrest, these accounts were used to launder money scammed from people using online share trading and part-time job offer scams as well, police said.

Bijoy, an unemployed who had studied till class 12, was found to be withdrawing money from these accounts through cheques and converting them into cryptocurrency to send it to beneficiaries outside India indicating a laundering exercise, police said.

"He was earning a fixed percentage as incentive for this. His accounts were being frozen one after the other for being used as mule accounts and he continued to open fresh ones, indicating complete awareness of his actions," said an investigator, adding that the links to this scam could lead to handlers in Cambodia and Dubai as well.

Bijoy was arrested after intense surveillance by Avadi police. Nine debit cards, two passbooks, nine cheque books and a laptop and mobile phone were seized from him. The Avadi cybercrime wing will be pursuing additional leads in this case, an investigator said.

EDITORIAL

"[Indo-Russian friendship] is not aimed against any particular country, but it certainly is a deterrent against the domination by any outside power in the internal affairs of Russia as well as of India

Triloki Nath Kaul

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

PUT TO BETTER USE LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE 2004 TSUNAMI

TWENTY years ago today, giant waves—a tsunami—struck India's coasts and forever altered what Indians imagined a disaster could be. Tamil Nadu, with around 8,000 deaths, was the worst affected state. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, the state responded swiftly even as funds flowed in from across the globe to help the devastated communities, especially the fisher folk who had lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods. Much of what Tamil Nadu knows of disaster management was arguably learnt in the handling of the tsunami's aftermath. The National Disaster Management Authority was founded only in 2005. Since then, the state has faced multiple disasters, including the 2015 Chennai floods, the 2018 Gaja cyclone and the 2023 Thoothukudi floods. While some responses have been streamlined—relief and rescue is often fairly efficient, especially along the coast and in Chennai—long-term rehabilitation remains lacking. For instance, houses built with NGO support in tsunami-hit districts have been of varying quality; 20 years on, some are falling apart.

Relief and rescue in less disaster-prone areas are less streamlined, as seen in the 2023 flooding in the state's southern districts caused by unprecedented rainfall. Given the effects of climate change, the state still must learn to quickly adopt and adapt mitigation and relief methods that work in every district, for every section of society—especially the aged, disabled and marginalised communities. Building resilient communities must be a priority given natural disasters now come calling every year. States must also learn from one another and their experiences must meaningfully inform national policy.

The tsunami taught us that trauma from surviving a natural disaster lives on, affecting behaviours. While rehabilitation is often focused on shelter, food and livelihood, the importance of mental health cannot be ignored. To ensure people can return to normal lives with healthy coping mechanisms—and not be drawn to harmful or addictive ways—mental health support must be made available to children and adults alike in the immediate aftermath and in the longer term. The morning of the tsunami still haunts thousands of families living along Tamil Nadu's coast, many of whom have had to survive other disasters too. Their pain can be mitigated if the state puts to better use what nature has taught it.

CARDIAC CHECKS MUST TO TACKLE DISEASE EPIDEMIC

IN a festive season filled with celebrations, health gets relegated to the back of the mind. It also happens to be the perfect time to remind ourselves that cardiac problems have emerged as a major worry across India. We are facing the risk factors contributing to cardiovascular diseases—including diabetes, hypertension and obesity—at a higher rate and younger age than most other population groups in the world. The average age of people reporting cardiac disease symptoms in India is said to be a decade younger than those in Western countries. Apart from being a grave public health concern, the trend poses a serious question on the quality of India's workforce.

Heart-related insurance claims have shot up from 9-12 percent of all claims in 2019-20 to 18-20 percent in 2023-24, reflecting the growing prevalence of cardiac issues. Apart from genetic predisposition, the main reasons for this are increasingly sedentary lifestyles, poor nutrition made worse by higher consumption of ultra-processed foods, liquor and sugary drinks, widespread smoking and other tobacco habits, and stress and anxiety related to work. While prevention would mean cutting down on vices, correcting dietary habits and increasing physical activity through appropriate exercises, a crucial aspect would be to establish an effective scanning system to detect heart diseases before the first symptoms show up; preventive treatments and corrective measures can follow.

Health experts and medical researchers need to constantly keep an eye out for newer methods in prevention. For instance, researchers at University of Virginia's department of biomedical engineering have tapped magnetic resonance imaging or MRI scans of the heart to detect excessive fat accumulation in the epicardial tissue to identify individuals who could develop cardiac problems in the future and initiate non-invasive preventive treatments. Well-structured awareness programmes for the people in every corner of the country, coupled with elaborate health scanning in general and cardiac scanning in particular can drastically cut down heart problems and mortality. The problem is staring in the face of the health machinery at the central and state levels—it's time they tackled it head on. The stakeholders need to realise that it directly affects the quality of the country's human resources. Any complacency on that front could prove unimaginably costly in the years to come.

QUICK TAKE

REMOVE THE SMOKESCREEN

A decade-old programme that requires coal-fired power plants to install equipment to cut sulphur emissions is floundering. A recent report showed that only about 8 percent of the 540 power units that were supposed to make the change by 2026 have done so. High cost of the foreign technology is the main culprit. Government-backed studies also show that even those who have installed the system have reported negligible improvement. Sulphur dioxide in the air can irritate respiratory systems, affect heart and lung functions, and damage vegetation. Why can't the government put together the brightest minds in the related disciplines to come up with an effective Indian solution?

THE 88-year old South Indian Education Society is one of the oldest educational societies in Mumbai and a major centre of higher learning in India's financial capital with emphasis on professional institutions. Although the society does not have a footprint in strategic studies, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chose that forum last weekend to make certain remarks regarding the government's foreign policy orientation. These remarks have since been highlighted on the MEA website hinting at their resonance in world capitals.

The EAM's remarks can be succinctly captured on the following lines: although India has established itself as an independent power on the global stage, it continues to encounter "constraints and limitations" in the exercise of its autonomy; a discourse at the national level is needed to overcome them. Basically, this concerns India's identity and vision. And at the very core of it lies the government's determination not to "allow ourselves to be defined by others".

Clearly, greater assertion of our sense of independence inevitably involves taking a stance different from the dominant thinking of the day on occasions and is predicated on the ability to analyse problems and find solutions for ourselves. The crux of the matter is, Jaishankar underscored, "Independence should also never be confused for neutrality. We will do what is right in our national interest and for global good, without being intimidated to conform. In the final analysis, Bharat can never permit others to have a veto on our choices."

In statecraft, such diplomatic pronouncements of profound consequence are, by their very nature and cutting edge, almost always contextual. No doubt, in the years after conflict erupted in Ukraine, India has come under immense Western pressure to "conform". The government is cognisant that the choppy waters of international diplomacy are only going to become more turbulent, as multipolarity begins to gain traction and the Western dominance that characterised the ebb and flow of history through the past five centuries comes under serious challenge for the first time.

It is inherent in life that established powers are loath to make way to accommodate emerging ones. The pressures working on India take different forms—covertly or openly. The controversial Nijjar-Pannun case is one such manifestation. Again, under the rubric of human rights and religious freedom, the US's pressure on India is mounting.

From the diplomatic perspective, the US-sponsored regime change in Bangladesh has cut into India's core security interests as the set-up in Dhaka shifts gear from the brazen pogrom against the Hindu community to concerted efforts to erode the connectivity between our northeastern states and the Indian hinterland, and, most important, strategise a Bangladesh-Pakistan regional security nexus directed against India. (Curiously, in a phone conversation on Monday with Bangladesh's chief advisor Muhammad Yunus, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan "offered the US's continued support in meeting the challenges Bangladesh faces".)

Certainly, a nadir is reached when American agencies, which have a record of spearheading regime change projects (and financiers such as the American billionaire George Soros), have become active to fuel dissent and discord in India's domestic politics. Regrettably, sections of the Indian opposition and media find it expedient to team up with the American project to destabilise India. This phenomenon of unholy alliance between our political parties and the CIA is nothing new, as the mayhem in Kerala leading to the dismissal of the first communist government in 1959 testifies.

Meanwhile, if the *Washington Post* report on Tuesday is true—and it's likely to be credible given the paper's affiliation with the American Deep State—the Biden administration, in its remaining days in power, is planning to impose large-scale sanctions on the Russian energy sector and the "dark fleet" that ferries its oil to the world markets. The newspaper claimed that this move is intended both "as a parting blow in its (Washington's) financial war against Vladimir Putin" as well as intended to "give the incoming team of president-elect Donald Trump more leverage in its negotiations with Putin over ending Russia's war with Ukraine".

According to S&P Global, Russia earned roughly $100 billion from energy sales last year. The expert opinion is that once the new sanctions bite, there would be a double-digit decline in Russia's export revenue over a period of six to 12 months. A senior US official has been cited as rationalising the entire effort as necessary to ensure that Ukraine is in the "best possible position" to defend itself and negotiate peace with Russia on "just" terms. Indeed, the stakes are very high in the titanic struggle for global hegemony. *The Post* concludes: "As the clock ticks down on Biden's term, holding Russia to account for its aggression against Ukraine remains a high priority."

It is entirely conceivable the new financial sanctions against Russian oil exports may also target India directly or indirectly, since India is a major buyer of Russian oil. Reliance Industries and Russia's state oil firm Rosneft recently reached a 10-year agreement worth roughly $13 billion a year at current prices, whereby the Russian giant will supply nearly 500,000 barrels of crude of various grades per day in what has been billed by *Reuters* as "the biggest oil supply deal" ever between India and Russia.

Make no mistake, Jaishankar's remarks, which came on the eve of his unscheduled six-day visit to the US to interact with the incoming Trump team, can be put in proper perspective. The Biden administration, as it relinquishes power, aims to put a knife into the heart of the flourishing India-Russia relationship, which it had opposed tooth and tail all along.

The calculation of the Biden White House is that the new sanctions regime will also put a spoke in the wheel of Delhi's dealings with the incoming Trump administration as well as complicate whatever prospect remain for an improvement in Russian-American relations under Trump's watch, which is a crucial requisite for settlement in Ukraine. The combination of circumstances is fraught with uncertainties. A formidable diplomatic and political challenge lies ahead for the government.

(Views are personal)

The last acts of the Biden administration aimed at Russian oil may affect India too. They can constrain the thriving India-Russia ties once Donald Trump takes office

BITING NAILS WHILE BIDING TIME ON BIDEN

M K BHADRAKUMAR

Former diplomat

SOURAV ROY

2 DECADES ON: STRIDES IN WARNING SYSTEMS

IN the realm of disaster management, India stands tall as a global leader, thanks to its state-of-the-art Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS) established in the wake of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami that crashed ashore two decades ago to this day.

The tsunami of December 26, 2004, which claimed over 2,30,000 lives across 14 countries, served as a wake-up call for the global community. India, with its vast coastline stretching over 7,500 km, bore significant losses. In response, the government established the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre under the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services in Hyderabad. Operational since 2007, this centre is now a cornerstone of India's disaster preparedness infrastructure.

The Indian TEWS is a complex network of seismic sensors, deep-ocean pressure recorders, wave rider buoys, tide gauges, and satellite-based communication systems. It operates by detecting undersea earthquakes in real-time, analysing their potential to generate tsunamis, and disseminating alerts to vulnerable regions.

It employs a four-step approach:

1. A network of seismic stations continuously monitors tectonic activity in the Indian Ocean and beyond.
2. Advanced computer models simulate tsunami propagation and predict the likely impact on coastal areas.
3. Many instruments like wave rider buoys, bottom pressure recorders and tide gauges are installed in the Indian Ocean to monitor the trajectory of tsunami and collect wave parameters associated with it.
4. Alerts are rapidly communicated to disaster management authorities and the public through SMS, emails, television, radio, and social media.

What sets India's TEWS apart is its use of cutting-edge technology and international collaboration. The system integrates data from global seismic networks and partners with agencies such as the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). India's indigenous Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis buoys are pivotal in detecting changes in ocean pressure.

Since its inception, the TEWS has successfully issued timely warnings for multiple undersea earthquakes, ensuring swift evacuation and mitigation of risks. Notably, during the 2012 Banda Aceh earthquake, the system accurately predicted the non-occurrence of a tsunami.

India's TEWS is not just a national asset but also a regional lifeline. Designated as a Regional Tsunami Service Provider by Unesco's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, it provides critical advisories to 25 Indian Ocean Rim countries.

But challenges remain. Normally, tsunamigenic earthquakes happen in plate tectonic boundaries. In the Indian Ocean, we have two different sources: one near Sumatra and one near Makran. Literature studies reveal during 1945, we had a tsunami from Makran. But tsunamis in the Pacific ocean suggest tsunamigenic earthquakes also happen beyond tectonic plate boundaries, particularly at the middle and tail end of plates due to realignment.

Are we well equipped to predict those? Though tsunamis are primarily associated with earthquakes, it can also happen due to landslides, meteorite impact and nuclear explosions. Whether our system is capable of predicting those is the question that we raise during the 20th anniversary.

Besides, there are many natural precursors like the initial withdrawal of the ocean, sound in the ocean, a special smell happening just before a tsunami. Moreover, there are many animal precursors, which include shifting of marine animals to land and non linear behavior of animals.

Enhancing public awareness, improving last-mile connectivity for warning dissemination, and conducting regular drills are essential to ensure the system's effectiveness. Additionally, addressing the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and increasing coastal vulnerabilities, requires sustained efforts.

The advancements made by the Indian scientific team in the last 20 years should be applauded. Our advanced tsunami warning system underscores the power of technology in saving lives. By investing in robust infrastructure and fostering international partnerships, India has set a global benchmark for disaster preparedness.

Many other countries also possess effective tsunami warning systems. Japan, the US, Indonesia, Chile, Australia and New Zealand have effective warning systems.

Japan's tsunami early warning system is among the most advanced in the world, owing to the country's vulnerability to seismic activities. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration leads the TEWS in the US, with a focus on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. Indonesia is situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it one of the most tsunami-prone countries. The Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics manages the TEWS.

Chile has developed a robust TEWS managed by the National Emergency Office of the ministry of interior and the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of its navy. Australia's Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre, operated by its Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience, provides warnings for the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean regions. New Zealand's warning system is managed by its ministry of civil defence and emergency management.

So it's a responsibility rightly shouldered by a number of countries in the region. Along with that responsibility comes the motivation to constantly improve the individual and collaborative systems.

(Views are personal)

PRAVEEN SAKALYA

Head, Department of Physics, St Thomas College, Pathanamthitta; former project scientist, National Centre for Coastal Research, Chennai

PTI

Established after the devastating calamity 20 years ago, India's tsunami early warning system is a beacon of hope for millions. Since inception, it has issued timely warnings to other countries too. But questions must be asked to improve the system

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Eroding decorum

Ref: *Karnataka council row symptomatic of malaise* (Dec 25). The recent events in Karnataka's legislative council highlight a troubling erosion of decorum in political institutions. The use of gendered insults and personal attacks during the Belagavi session reflects a toxic culture that undermines the principles of democracy and inclusivity. Equally concerning is the lack of accountability.

Trupti Ajay Rao, Bengaluru

Curb sexism

Politicians must not give space to sexism, misogyny and sexist hate speech in the legislative council as such offensive statements violate the fundamental values of equality and respect. Politicians must work together to create an environment where everyone is treated with respect, regardless of gender.

Aditya Kamble, Kalaburagi

Governing Delhi

Ref: *Making whole with charge of half a state* (Dec 25). The author made great observations in the column. How Delhi is governed and how the citizens negotiate their lives are questions that many people have studied. My years at AIIMS tell me that reparations would be needed before it is too late.

Bidhu K Mohanti, Bhubaneswar

Myanmar's suffering

Ref: *Myanmar junta digs itself a deeper hole* (Dec 25). The situation in Myanmar is like a ticking time bomb, waiting to unleash a catastrophe of epic proportions. I urge the international community to step up to the plate and take concrete actions to address the nation's crisis. We owe it to the people of Myanmar, who are suffering unimaginably, to act with compassion and urgency.

Raju Kolluru, Kakinada

Statesman Vajpayee

Ref: *A tribute to Atal ji, the statesman whose vision shaped India* (Dec 25). PM Narendra Modi's heartfelt tribute to former PM and Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee has brought out various facets of the statesman's personality and virtues. Vajpayee was never vindictive or biased, and was an honest leader whose integrity and nationalism were never in doubt.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Mentality change

The rise in child marriages in Tamil Nadu is quite shocking. Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, superstition and certain religious beliefs are the reasons for this malady, despite the government's best efforts. Unless the mentality of people changes, it will be very difficult for us to eradicate it completely.

V Venkitasubramanian, Coimbatore

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Anurag Thakur @ianuragthakur
When VP Singh's government was in power at the centre, on the request of Atal ji, that government honoured Baba Saheb by giving him Bharat Ratna.

Pawan Khera @Pawankhera
The way in which the students preparing for the BPSC exam were brutally lathi-charged in Patna today is highly undemocratic and shameful.

Jawhar Sircar @jawharsircar
Modi's cronies have trebled their wealth. They pay at lesser tax rates that what they did in 2014. While the middle class and lower strata struggle to survive!

Committed to Viksit Bharat goal, says NDA

Allies back the two bills for holding simultaneous elections, which were recently tabled in Parliament by government

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PROMINENT leaders of NDA constituents on Wednesday resolved to remain united and dedicated to achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Viksit-Bharat". They all reiterated their commitment to continue working in the national interest under his visionary leadership.

Their resolve came up at the first NDA coordination meeting after the winter session of Parliament, attended, among others, by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The meeting took place at the residence of BJP president JP Nadda.

Sources said the NDA allies decided to expose the Opposition for the row it falsely created over the statement Home Minister Amit Shah on BR Ambedkar. They would simultaneously spread the message about the Modi government's performance and policies for the welfare of the poor to every section of society.

Coming out of the meeting, Nadda said, "The NDA government remains steadfast in pursuing Viksit-Bharat's vision and a more prosperous future for all". He also posted on X on the meeting's outcome, saying, "Attended the NDA leaders' meeting in New Delhi today. Under the visionary leadership of PM @narendramodi ji, India is achieving unprecedented milestones and has positioned itself as a global power".

Union minister and BJP chief JP Nadda, along with Home Minister Amit Shah meet NDA leaders at his residence in New Delhi on Wednesday | PTI

The NDA meeting coincided with the birth centenary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Others at the meeting included JDU leader and Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Apna Dal (S) chief and Union minister Anupriya Patel, and JD(S) leader and Union minister H D Kumaraswamy, Bihar's Hindustani Awam Morcha (S) leader Jitan Ram Manjhi, Rashtriya Lok Morcha president Upendra Kushwaha, and Thushar Vellappally, president of Bharat Dharma Jana Sena.

Sources said the meeting discussed good governance — the theme of the Vajpayee government — and critical political issues. NDA allies in Bihar fielding candidates in the Delhi assembly polls also emerged.

A senior source said the NDA constituents formally discussed and backed the two bills the government introduced in Parliament for holding simultaneous elections to parliament and state assemblies.

Sources said Shah advised the NDA leaders to steer clear of Congress' distractions.

Naidu calls on PM to take stock of Andhra projects

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital to discuss issues related to the state.

According to sources, Naidu and the PM discussed issues related to the state's development and pending projects during the 30-minute meeting at the Prime Minister's residence.

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders K Ram Mohan Naidu and Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, both ministers in the Central government, and party MP Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu were present in the meeting.

Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma, BJP MP from Andhra Pradesh and Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries, was also present. The TDP is a major ally of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Earlier during the day, Naidu met Union Railways and I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and flagged the state's concerns. Naidu met Vaishnaw after attending the NDA leaders' meeting at BJP president JP Nadda's residence.

The Chief Minister also paid homage to former prime minister and BJP founding president Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his memorial, 'Sadaiv Atal', on his 100th birth anniversary.

Naidu began his day by offering tributes to former Vajpayee at Atal Samadhi. He accompanied Modi, Amit Shah and other top BJP leaders. He also took to X to pay his tributes to Vajpayee on his 100th birth anniversary.

"Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a visionary leader and a true Bharat Ratna, who dedicated his life to the nation's service. A statesman par excellence, he championed democracy, dialogue, and consensus-building. Atal ji was an astute parliamentarian and a poet at heart. He led the nation with exceptional foresight, paving the way for transformative reforms that propelled India toward global leadership in pivotal sectors," he said.

Arunish Chawla revenue secy in bureaucratic rejig

Manipur CS higher edu secy

Manipur chief secretary Vineet Joshi is appointed as the higher education secretary and senior IAS officer Arunish Chawla as the revenue secretary. Sanjay Sethi, currently serving in Maharashtra cadre, will be the new secretary of the National Commission for Minorities. Neerja Sekhar, special secretary in the I&B ministry, will be National Productivity Council D-G.

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

IN a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the Centre on Wednesday appointed Vineet Joshi, chief secretary of ethnic violence-hit Manipur, as the higher education secretary and senior IAS officer Arunish Chawala as the revenue secretary, according to a statement from the government.

A 1992 batch IAS officer, Joshi was appointed Manipur chief secretary in May last year. He was then serving as the additional secretary in the department of higher education.

Chawla, a 1992-batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre, is currently the pharmaceuticals secretary on his deputation to the Centre.

The notification said that Chawla will continue to hold the additional charge of secretary, ministry of culture, till a regular incumbent is appointed. Amit Agrawal, chief executive officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India, has been appointed as the new pharmaceuticals secretary, replacing Chawla. Textiles secretary Rachna Shah has been appointed as the secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training.

Senior IAS officer Sanjay Sethi, who is currently serving in the Maharashtra cadre, will be the new secretary of the National Commission for Minorities succeeding Neelam Shammi Rao, who has been appointed as the textiles secretary in place of Rachna Shah. Neerja Sekhar, special secretary in the I&B ministry, will be director general of the National Productivity Council under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, the order said.

Deployment near home, couple getting same place posting part of CISF policy

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has rolled out a new liberal transfer policy for its personnel, allowing them to have choice-based postings including home district, same city postings for married couples in the force, and fixed scheduling of posting orders.

The policy has been brought out for its non-gazetted personnel and jawans. Designed to create a more transparent and equitable system for organisational transfers, it will benefit around 1.94 lakh personnel.

According to a senior CISF official, the new transfer policy introduces four key improvements: choice-based postings; the option of postings near home; the possibility of couples being stationed in the same city, and the pre-determined scheduling of posting orders.

Additionally, the policy has also prioritised the skills and experience of personnel when making transfer decisions.

The official said that for the first time in the history of the CISF, non-gazetted officers and jawans will be able to obtain postings based on their preference. Under the new policy, the first 10 years of service will be non-choice. During this period, the members of the force will be required to fulfill their duties at their assigned location.

After 10 years of service, "the personnel will become eligible for choice posting," he said, adding that the jawans will then "submit a transfer request to force headquarters, including a list of 10 preferred posting locations." The force headquarters will ensure that the jawan or non-gazetted officer is transferred to one of these preferred locations, he said.

The officer said that those nearing retirement would be given special preference, to allow them to segue into civilian life.

Noting the increase in number of women in the force, the official said that a special provision has been made in the new transfer policy to enable them to balance duty and home in a better manner. Under these special provisions, a couple working in CISF will now be able to get postings in the same location, he said.

Meanwhile, the period of non-choice posting for women force members will be six years, after which they can request a transfer to their husband's location. This provision applies even if the husband is employed outside the CISF.

LENIENT TRANSFER POLICY
CHOICE POSTING
Applicable after 10 years of service for men and 6 years for women
After this, personnel can submit a transfer request with a list of 10 preferred locations
Personnel nearing retirement to get special preference
MARRIED COUPLES
Husband and wife to get posting in the same location, to help them balance duty and home
The provision applies even if the husband is employed outside the CISF
The force currently employs around 5,800 couples
FIXED SCHEDULING
NEARLY 1.94 L CISF PERSONNEL CAN AVAIL FIXED SCHEDULING OF TRANSFER ORDER

Arms purchase up, yet Army faces barrel crunch

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

AT the time when the Indian Army is modernising its offensive capabilities, specifically in the Artillery and the Armoured Regiments, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit exercise has reported "shortfall of barrels and breech mechanisms ranging from 30-100 per cent of the production capacity" during 2015-22. A delay in the supply of ammunition has also been noticed.

The CAG audit also found that augmentation of production capacity of large calibre weapons in ordnance factories "could not be completed (January 2023)" even though an expenditure of ₹292.32 crore (₹253.13 crore P&M + ₹39.19 crore civil works)" was incurred.

The CAG has advised the Ministry of Defence and Defence public sector undertakings to "work out a revised time frame and put in place a strengthened monitoring mechanism to achieve project deliverables."

The report for the period ended March 2021 was tabled in Parliament during the winter session. "Inordinate time was taken in execution of the civil works and procurement/ receipt/ commissioning of plant and machineries, especially the Electro Slag Refining (ESR) plant along with its linked machines at Field Gun Factory Kanpur (FGK) and five important machines at Metal & Steel Factory Ishapore (MSF)," it said.

The delays, including the "non-commissioning of the ESR plant at FGK and sub-optimal capacity of production of ESR slugs at MSF had a cascading effect on the entire supply line of components," the report said.

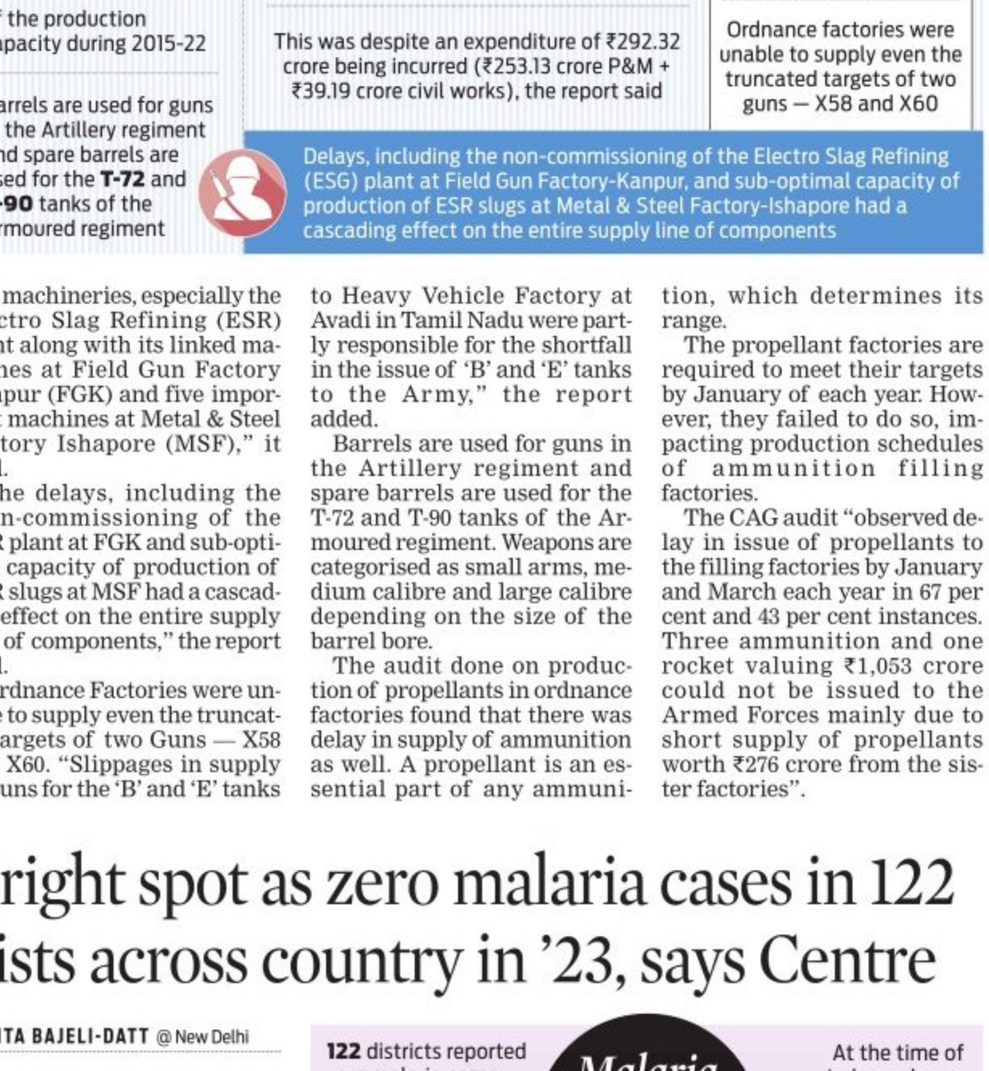
Ordnance Factories were unable to supply even the truncated targets of two Guns — X58 and X60. "Slippages in supply of guns for the 'B' and 'E' tanks to Heavy Vehicle Factory at Avadi in Tamil Nadu were partly responsible for the shortfall in the issue of 'B' and 'E' tanks to the Army," the report added.

Barrels are used for guns in the Artillery regiment and spare barrels are used for the T-72 and T-90 tanks of the Armoured regiment. Weapons are categorised as small arms, medium calibre and large calibre depending on the size of the barrel bore.

The audit done on production of propellants in ordnance factories found that there was delay in supply of ammunition as well. A propellant is an essential part of any ammunition, which determines its range.

The propellant factories are required to meet their targets by January of each year. However, they failed to do so, impacting production schedules of ammunition filling factories.

The CAG audit "observed delay in issue of propellants to the filling factories by January and March each year in 67 per cent and 43 per cent instances. Three ammunition and one rocket valuing ₹1,053 crore could not be issued to the Armed Forces mainly due to short supply of propellants worth ₹276 crore from the sister factories".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CASCADING EFFECT
The CAG audit report revealed that augmentation of large caliber weapon production capacity in ordnance factories could not be completed by January 2023
This was despite an expenditure of ₹292.32 crore being incurred (₹253.13 crore P&M + ₹39.19 crore civil works), the report said
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Shah sets target, says 2L cooperatives in 5 years

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

UNION Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday inaugurated 10,000 new multi-purpose Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), saying the government is working on a mission mode to achieve its target of establishing 2 lakh such societies in the next five years.

"The prosperity through cooperation cannot be achieved unless cooperatives function effectively at the panchayat level. The government is working to ensure prosperity at panchayats," Shah said at the launch event. "We have kept a target of setting up 2 lakh PACS in five years. I want to tell you that we will establish 2 lakh PACS before five years. In three months, we established 10,000 new PACS," the minister said.

He said 10,000 new MPACS have been inaugurated on the birth centenary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. "This milestone is deeply symbolic, as it was during Atal ji's tenure that the 97th Constitutional Amendment was enacted, highlighting his commitment to revitalise the long-overlooked cooperative sector," he added.

Shah said a standard operating procedure (SOP) was framed on September19 and within just 86 days the registration of 10,000 PACS was competed. He emphasised how PM Narendra Modi's working on the motto "sahkar se samridhi" (prosperity through cooperation) has crated the ministry of cooperation. "The primary cooperative societies are the foundation of India's three-tier cooperative structure, which is why the Modi government has set an ambitious target to establish 2 lakh new PACS," he said.

The initiative will be rolled out in two phases, with NABARD establishing 32,750 new multipurpose PACS in the first phase, while NDDB will set up 56,500 dairy cooperatives and NFDB 6,000 fishery cooperatives.

Need for digitalisation

Amit Shah highlighted the importance of digitalisation in the cooperative sector, noting that the government has computerised existing PACS and integrated them with 32 different initiatives. He said cooperatives cannot operate if there is no trained manpower, urging societies to utilise the new training module.

Governance reforms must begin at grassroots: Govt

Governance reforms must begin at the grassroots to bring about long-lasting and meaningful change as well as to fill up the capacity gaps

Jitendra Singh, Union minister

Dashboard

New dashboard on iGOT (integrated government online training) is designed to empower ministries, departments, and state administrators with advanced tools to monitor user registrations, course completions, and overall progress in capacity-building.

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

UNION Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said governance reforms must begin at the grassroots level to bring about "long-lasting and meaningful" change.

In a move to strengthen grassroots governance, Singh launched the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative on Good Governance Day, celebrated very year to mark birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The initiative, which is part of the broader 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur' campaign, aims to enhance the capacity and competence of panchayati raj institutions by equipping elected representatives and officials with the tools and knowledge required for effective governance, said the minister of state for personnel, public grievances and pensions.

He said that "governance reforms must begin at the grassroots to bring about long-lasting and meaningful change as well as to fill up the capacity gaps." Piloted in Odisha, Assam, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, the initiative leverages e-learning platforms, AI-powered chatbots and mobile apps to bridge knowledge gaps and enhance service delivery, Singh said.

He said that this programme aligns with the government's broader mission to decentralise governance and foster participatory decision-making at the grassroots level.

The minister also launched a series of transformative initiatives on the occasion.

The first initiative was the launch of a new dashboard on the iGOT (integrated government online training) Karmayogi platform, along with the milestone introduction of the 1600th e-learning course.

Bright spot as zero malaria cases in 122 dists across country in '23, says Centre

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

INDIA is taking steady strides towards a malaria-free nation with as many as 122 districts reporting zero malaria cases in 2023, according to Union Health Ministry officials on Wednesday.

The country has also exited from the World Health Organisation (WHO's) high burden to high impact group in 2024, signifying a turning point in its fight against the disease.

With over 97% reduction, the number of annual malaria cases declined from 7.5 crore at the time of independence in 1947 to 20 lakhs by 2023. The number of malaria-related deaths also fell from eight lakhs to 83, the officials said. In 2023, zero malaria cases were reported in 122 districts across various states, said the ministry officials.

With comprehensive and multi-pronged strategies like the National Framework for Malaria Elimination and the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2023-27), the government is working with the vision of achieving malaria-free status by 2030, they said.

At the time of independence, malaria was one of the most pressing public health challenges, with about 7.5 crore cases annually and 8 lakh deaths.

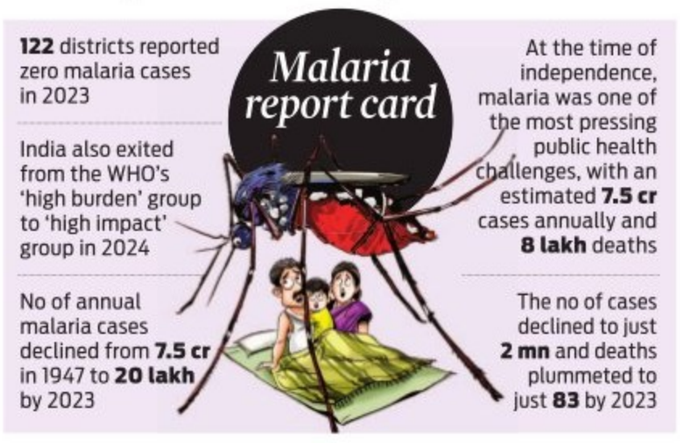
Over the decades, relentless efforts have drastically reduced these numbers by over 97%, with cases declining to just 2 million and deaths plummeting to just 83 by 2023.

"This achievement underscores India's commitment to eliminating malaria and improving public health," the ministry said in a statement.

The latest World Malaria Report 2024, released by the WHO, celebrates India's significant progress, officials added.

"India's achievements include a significant reduction in malaria cases and malaria-related deaths between 2017 and 2023. This success is further highlighted by India's exit from the WHO's High Burden to High Impact group in 2024, signifying a turning point in its fight against malaria. These achievements reflect the nation's robust public health interventions and its vision for malaria-free status," the ministry said.

India's epidemiological progress is particularly evident in the movement of states to lower disease burden categories. From 2015 to 2023, numerous states have transitioned from the higher-burden category to the significantly lower or zero-burden category.


Malaria report card
122 districts reported zero malaria cases in 2023
India also exited from the WHO's 'high burden' group to 'high impact' group in 2024
No of annual malaria cases declined from 7.5 cr in 1947 to 20 lakh by 2023
At the time of independence, malaria was one of the most pressing public health challenges, with an estimated 7.5 cr cases annually and 8 lakh deaths
The no of cases declined to just 2 mn and deaths plummeted to just 83 by 2023

BOAT CAPSIZE

One person died and 20 others were rescued after a tourist boat capsized in the Arabian Sea off Calangute beach in North Goa on Wednesday, police said. The incident occurred around 1.30 pm, they said.

17 NATIONALS

FROM BANGLADESH HELD FOR ILLEGAL STAY

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	27	18	Mumbai	28	28
Bhopal	25	14	Panaji	32	24
Jaipur	22	15	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	20	07	Lucknow	36	22
Chennai	28	25	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	26	17	Imphal	31	19
Srinagar	07	-02	Chandigarh	35	19

● Devotees visiting Vaishno Devi protest against proposed ropeway project ● 3-level intel system in place for mega fair beginning Jan 13

Pilgrims in peril as Katra goes for 72-hr shutdown

Many people were detained. The police action was unwarranted and it has increased anger among the people

Jugal Sharma, former legislator

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE Katra town, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine, is observing 72-hour shutdown from Wednesday against the proposed ropeway project. The locals including traders, shopkeepers, pony operators and labourers have opposed the project saying it would snatch their livelihood.

Due to the shutdown, the pilgrims faced a lot of inconvenience and hardships. Shops and other business establishments too were closed. The shutdown has been called by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangarsh Samiti, which is spearheading agitation against the ropeway project.

The proposed ₹250-crore ropeway project would connect Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat, which leads to the cave shrine in Reasi district. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has decided to construct the ropeway to facilitate access to the temple for elderly and others.

According to Vaishno Devi Sangarsh Samiti leaders, the ropeway project would not only snatch the livelihood of the locals but impact the town's economy. "It will also hurt the religious sentiments and make our ecology and environment more fragile," a Sangarsh Samiti leader said. The Samiti has called for a 72-hour shutdown after the talk with Deputy Commissioner Reasi failed.

The Samiti leaders and the traders took out a peaceful march in the Katra town and were arrested. "Many people were detained by police. The police action was unwarranted and uncalled for and it has increased anger among the people," said a former legislator Jugal Sharma.

He said the shutdown would not be called off and there are chances that it may be extended till the demands are met. Due to the shutdown, the pilgrims visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine faced a lot of hardships.

"I have come from Delhi to pay obeisance at the Vaishno Devi shrine. We are facing problems as the market is closed. The hotels are closed and there is no local transport available. We are facing trouble in eating and even a bottle of drinking water is not available," said Sayem, a pilgrim from Delhi.

Bandh may be extended

The former legislator said there are chances that the lockdown may be extended till the demands are met. The pilgrims visiting the shrine faced a lot of hardships.

Underwater drones part of Mahakumbh security

The administration is committed to putting up a robust and hi-tech security system in place.

Rajesh Dwivedi, SSP, Mahakumbh Nagar

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE Mahakumbh mela administration has put in place a three-level intelligence system in a move to bolster security for the pilgrims. Besides checkpoints set up for the verification of visitors before entering the mela arena, underwater drones have been deployed at Sangam to monitor underwater activities round the clock, officials said.

The mega religious fair is scheduled to commence on January 13 with the first Shahi Snan of Makarsankranti on January 14. As per the mela administration, the security at temples and key sites in Mahakumbhnagar has been strengthened to ensure safety during New Year celebrations. The intelligence system has been activated across the Mahakumbh Mela area, Prayagraj and neighbouring districts. "The administration is committed to putting up a robust and hi-tech security system in place. With the global spotlight on the Mahakumbh, the mela police have gone into full alert mode ahead of the New Year celebrations," said Rajesh Dwivedi, SSP, Mahakumbh Nagar.

AI-powered cameras have been introduced along with drones, anti-drones, and tethered drones strategically deployed to enhance surveillance. "To ensure cyber safety of devotees, robust measures, including intensified cyber patrolling, have been put in place. The most skilled police personnel have been given responsibility to bolster the security system in Mahakumbhnagar," Dwivedi said.

Following the model of road traffic management, the jal (water) police have implemented an extensive river traffic and safety management plan for Mahakumbh, covering a 12-km area and manning the movement of 4000 boats. Twenty-five marine divers from the Indian Navy, Vizag, have been deployed to maintain a 24x7 vigil. PAC, SDRF and NDRF teams will also contribute to safety efforts. "A 12-kilometer stretch, including 50 bathing ghats, has been secured with a water barricading system made up of rows of floating blocks and nets to manage any untoward incident during the mela," said Avneesh Yadav, DSP, Jal Police.

Intelligence system activated

The intelligence system has been activated across the Mahakumbh Mela area. Twenty-five marine divers from the Indian Navy and Vizag, have also been deployed.

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI

Our correspondent in Jaipur

rajesh.asnani@newindianexpress.com

Rahul's Jaipur visit stirs the political pot

When Rahul Gandhi landed in Jaipur recently, he was welcomed with much fanfare by former CM Ashok Gehlot, PCC chief Govind Dotasara, and LoP Tikaram Julie. After the welcome, Rahul soon went to a Congress training camp near Samod. The camp featured 45 representatives from various states, but not a single senior leader from Rajasthan made it to the list! While Congress officials downplayed the drama, insiders hinted at something spicier. While some argue it's an attempt to keep the peace within the party's state unit, others see it as a subtle reprimand for the constant infighting.

Tea-rrific blunder at Pali's anniversary bash!

District-level celebrations marking one year of the BJP govt in the state took a strange turn in Pali. The event was graced by minister-in-charge Jhabarsingh Kharra, the district collector and other top brasses. But what was brewing behind the scenes stole the spotlight! As cups of tea were served to the VIPs, the tea supply was on point, but the cups weren't! With more guests than expected, junior staff were spotted collecting used cups, washing them in the toilet - and re-serving them. A local journalist captured the fiasco, and the footage went viral, leaving the Pali administration red-faced.

Sonu Nigam vs Bhajanlal drama at Rising Summit!

The Rising Rajasthan Summit made headlines for its ambitious investment goals, but singer Sonu Nigam stole the spotlight - albeit for all the wrong reasons. At Jaipur's Rambagh Hotel, Nigam's dinner performance turned into an unexpected spectacle when several guests, including CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, walked out of the show. An irked Sonu released a scathing video on social media - "If you have to leave like this, then don't come. You are great, you don't have time, but insulting an artist and Maa Saraswati like this is unacceptable," he said. The video has sparked a row, dividing the internet into pro-Sonu and pro-CM camps.

Lookout notice against ex-cop after gold haul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

A Look Out Circular (LOC) has been issued against 'crorepati' ex-Madhya Pradesh transport department constable, Saurabh Sharma in the unaccounted gold and cash from MUV case.

"The circular has been issued by the Bureau of Immigration on request of the Income Tax department," a source said. The I-T department is probing the matter pertaining to recovery of 52 kg unaccounted gold and ₹11 crore cash from the MUV registered in the name of Sharma's key aide Chetan Singh Gaur.

While the I-T department sleuths have already grilled Gaur, they are now working at summoning Sharma, his wife, mother and close friends and aides, besides some transport department officials, whose names have been mentioned in incriminating documents. Notably, Sharma is said to be currently in Dubai.

Meanwhile, ongoing investigations by Lokayukta Special Police Establishment (SPE) led to seizure of foreign currency which might lead to registration of a case under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999.

4 killed, 21 hurt as state transport bus plunges into gorge in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

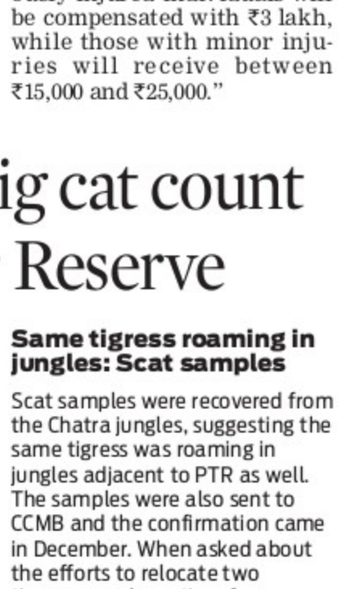
FOUR people, including a woman and a child, were killed and 21 others injured when a bus plunged into a gorge in Bhimtal, located in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, on Wednesday.

Arpan Yadavanshi, the Commandant of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), stated, "Two teams from the SDRF were immediately deployed, and with the assistance of the local police, relief and rescue operations were initiated."

According to SDRF sources, a bus operated by Uttarakhand Transport, which was heading towards Haldwani, lost control near Aam Padhav and rolled approximately 100 metres into a gorge. At the time of the incident, there were 27 people on board, four of whom died at the scene.

"A total of eleven individuals sustained minor injuries and are undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital, while those with serious injuries have been referred to a higher-level medical facility," a rescue official reported.

Plans are afoot to shift the injured from Bhimtal Hospital to



Dr Sushila Tiwari Hospital. "More than 15 ambulances have been dispatched from Haldwani to Bhimtal to assist the injured," an official confirmed.

Meanwhile, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced the provision of immediate relief funds for the families of the deceased and the injured.

"The families of those who lost their lives in the bus accident will receive a financial assistance of ₹10 lakh," said Dhami.

He further added that "seriously injured individuals will be compensated with ₹3 lakh, while those with minor injuries will receive between ₹15,000 and ₹25,000."

SGPC chief punished over 'foul' language

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

ON the direction of Panj Pyare (Five Beloveds), Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Harjinder Singh Dhami on Wednesday underwent religious punishment for using inappropriate language against his predecessor, Bibi Jagir Kaur.

Dhami was instructed to perform voluntary service (Seva) and engage in prayer as a form of atonement. He was required to serve for one hour at the shoe storage area and another hour in the langar hall, where he cleaned utensils.

Additionally, he was to recite the 'Panj Japji Sahib' path. The SGPC president met with the Akal Takht Jathedar for about fifteen minutes in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar before presenting himself before the Panj Pyare, who pronounced the punishment. Dhami then fulfilled his religious obligations.

Previously, Dhami had submitted an apology letter to the Akal Takht. A few days earlier, he had also appeared before the Punjab State Commission for Women to offer his apology; however, the commission found it unsatisfactory.

Cop in 'dry' Gujarat plays bartender to bootlegger buddy

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

IN dry Gujarat, where the police are supposed to uphold the liquor ban, a head constable from Petlad in Anand district decided to play bartender for his bootlegger buddy. He broke the law and tarnished the image of the khaki uniform by stashing foreign liquor in his own house.

Finally, he got caught. The LCB (Local Crime Branch) police of Anand nabbed him and took action. This incident isn't a one-off. Gujarat's guardians of the law have been caught red-handed with booze and smuggling before.

Anand LCB police got a tip-off that Mohsiniya Liaqatiya, also known as L.K. Malek from Kalal Peepal in Petlad, had arranged the delivery of Indian Made Foreign Liquor to the residence of Head Constable Sunil Makwana on the Petlad-Sunav Road. The police raided Makwana's house and detained him. They seized 240 bottles of IMFL worth ₹3.63 lakh stashed across the house.

Makwana admitted to receiving the liquor during questioning: "Bootlegger Liaqatia's men came to my house on December 22 in a white Swift car. They asked me to store the liquor for two to three days to avoid suspicion. Since they are my good friends, I allowed liquor storage at my house."

In November, a deputy superintendent of police with the State Reserve Police was arrested under the Gujarat Prohibition Act for being drunk and in possession of country-made liquor on the Morbi-Kutch highway.

In July, a female Crime Investigation Department (CID) officer was caught aiding a smuggler attempting to traffic liquor in Kutch district.

Another incident last year saw five police officers, including an assistant sub-inspector, arrested in Mahisagar district when caught stealing 125 seized liquor bottles and 15 table fans, worth ₹1.97 lakh, from a police station.

One more tigress found, big cat count reaches 5 in Palamu Tiger Reserve

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

IN a significant achievement, the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) has confirmed the presence of a tigress in the Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR).

The Centre's confirmation came on the basis of a scat of the suspected tigress sent to it. PTR officials have now issued a high alert in the reserve to locate the tigress.

According to PTR Director Kumar Ashutosh, "It is believed that the tigress has migrated to PTR to breed as a suitable atmosphere has been created for the big cats. A tigress gives birth to at least four to six cubs at a time and so, the number of tigers in PTR is expected to increase further in the coming days."

Scat samples were recovered from the Chatra jungles also, suggesting the same tigress was roaming in jungles adjacent to PTR as well. The samples were also sent to CCMB and the confirmation came in the second week of December.

With the presence of one more tigress, the count of big cats in PTR goes up to 5 as four tigers are already present there, he added.

When asked about the ongoing efforts to relocate two tigresses and one tiger from another reserve to retain the four tigers already present in Palamu, Kumar Ashutosh said that exercise is on hold for the time being.

"There is always a possibility of the big cats running away if relocated from some other reserve. This tigress has been found naturally in PTR, so it has more chances of staying in this habitat only. Therefore, there is no need to relocate other big cats as of now," he said.

Meanwhile, PTR is ensuring a prey base for the big cats by setting up Soft Release Centres (SRC) to ensure that there is enough food for the animals.

In these centres, prey animals are placed in pre-release cages close to where they will be released.

Same tigress roaming in jungles: Scat samples

Scat samples were recovered from the Chatra jungles, suggesting the same tigress was roaming in jungles adjacent to PTR as well. The samples were also sent to CCMB and the confirmation came in December. When asked about the efforts to relocate two tigresses and one tiger from another reserve to retain the four tigers already present in Palamu, Kumar Ashutosh said that exercise is on hold.

Chill grips high Himalayas, snowfall hits traffic

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A severe cold wave has gripped Uttarakhand's high Himalayan regions, bringing an unexpected chill to the state this December with the average minimum temperature hovering around 3.5 degrees C, weather department officials said. The winter landscape has transformed, with majestic Himalayan peaks blanketed in thick snow in sub-zeo temperature and several villages buried under a layer of white.

In the bordering Pithoragarh district, disaster management department officials have confirmed heavy snowfall at the higher peaks of the Byas Valley, Darma Valley, Munsiyari, and Johar Valley. "This has plunged the region into a bitter winter spell," District Disaster Management Officer Bhupendra Singh Meher said.

"As per the forecast for the approaching Saturday and Sunday for heavy snowfall, we are keeping all the DDMA staff on alert," he said. Intense snowfall has brought traffic to a halt along a 30-kilometer stretch of the Tyuni-Chakrata-Mussoorie National Highway in Dehradun district, according to officials at the State Disaster Management Office. The Dharanadhar-Koti Kanasar road remains heavily snow-covered, stranding two tourists from Delhi.

However, they have taken shelter in a local hotel and are waiting for the weather to improve. "Efforts are on to restore traffic on the closed road from Dharanadhar to Koti Kanasar. NH officials have deployed JCB machines and snow cutters to remove the snow from the national highway. However, due to slippage issues with the JCBs, significant amounts of snow have not yet been cleared," Navneet Pandey, Executive Engineer of the National Highway department, told this newspaper. "The journey along this route is not without its dangers," an official of the NH department said.

Vehicles are slipping on the snow-covered road, and several two-wheeler riders have sustained injuries. Authorities are urging travellers to exercise caution while attempting to navigate the treacherous conditions.

In the village of Mudoi Kachaanu within the Mugad gram panchayat in Sahiya, locals performed the 'Harul dance' in the snow. "The 'Harul dance' is a traditional folk dance that is performed especially during the winter season when the region experiences snowfall. This dance is often performed by the locals and showcases their culture and traditions," Bharat Singh Rana, a resident of Tyuni in Dehradun district, told this newspaper.

In the Harul dance, participants wear traditional attire and dance together. "The purpose of this dance is not only entertainment but also to reflect community unity and joy," Rana said.

JCB machines, snow cutters deployed

Efforts are on to restore traffic on the closed road from Dharanadhar to Koti Kanasar. NH officials have deployed JCB machines and snow cutters to remove the snow from the national highway. However, due to slippage issues with the JCBs, significant amounts of snow have not yet been cleared yet.

1 million
Captagon, amphetamine-like stimulant, pills were torched in Syria

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	1	-7	SNY	Los Angeles	26	9	SNY
Colombo	30	24	SNY	Melbourne	35	16	SNY
Dhaka	27	16	SNY	Moscow	-7	-7	LC
Dubai	24	19	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	23	9	SNY	Singapore	28	25	LR
Istanbul	14	6	SNY	Toronto	-1	-4	LC
London	8	4	SNY	Washington	8	3	SNY

An apartment building, above, destroyed by a Russian attack in Ukraine. Firefighters trying to douse fire following a missile attack in Ukraine on Wednesday | AP

Russia launches missiles, drones at Ukrainian energy infrastructure

State energy operator applies preemptive power outages across the country including Kyiv

KYIV

RUSSIA launched a massive missile and drone barrage targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure on Wednesday, striking a thermal power plant and prompting Ukrainians to take shelter in metro stations on Christmas morning.

The strikes on Ukrainian fuel and energy sources included 78 air, ground, and sea-launched missiles as well as 106 Shaheds and other types of drones, Ukraine's air force said. It claimed to have intercepted 59 missiles and 54 drones, with 52 more drones being jammed.

"(Russian President Vladimir) Putin deliberately chose Christmas for an attack. What could be more inhumane?" Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X. "They continue to fight for a blackout in Ukraine." In Russia, meanwhile, one woman died and three people were wounded after falling debris from a downed drone sparked a fire in a shopping mall in the city of Vladikavkaz. The head of Russia's republic of North Ossetia-Alania, Gov Sergey Menyaylo, said security footage showed that the explosion took place outside the Alania Mall on Wednesday.

At least one person was killed in Russia's attack on Ukraine's Dnipro region, Vice Prime Minister Oleksii Kuleba said on Telegram, adding that heating was disrupted for 155 residential buildings. He also said 500,000 people in the Kharkiv region were without heat.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said one Russian missile passed Moldovan and Romanian airspace.

Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko said Russia again "massively attacks energy infrastructure." Ukraine's air force said that multiple missiles had been fired at the Kharkiv, Dnipro and Poltava regions in the east of the country.

Halushchenko said the power distributor took the necessary measures to limit consumption. "As soon as the security situation allows, energy workers will establish the damage caused," he said.

State energy operator Ukrenergo applied preemptive power outages across the country due to a "massive missile attack," leading to electricity going out in several districts of the capital, Kyiv. Ukraine's biggest private energy company, DTEK, said Russia struck one of their thermal power plants Wednesday morning, making it the 13th attack on Ukraine's power grid this year.

"Denying light and warmth to millions of peace-loving people as they celebrate Christmas is a depraved and evil act that must be answered," Maxim Timchenko, CEO of DTEK wrote on his X account.

At least seven strikes targeted Kharkiv, sparking fires across the city, regional head Oleh Syniehubov wrote on Telegram. "Kharkiv is under massive missile fire. A series of explosions rang out in the city and there are still ballistic missiles flying in the direction of the city. Stay in safe places," Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said. *AP*

Hamas, Israel point fingers at each other for delay in talks

GAZA STRIP

HAMAS and Israel traded accusations on Wednesday over delays in finalising a ceasefire and hostage release agreement for Gaza, despite continued efforts by mediators to broker a deal in the latest round of negotiations.

Indirect talks between the two warring parties, mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States, have taken place in Doha in recent days.

On Wednesday, however, both sides accused the other of throwing up roadblocks to a deal. "The ceasefire and prisoner exchange negotiations are continuing in Doha under the mediation of Qatar and Egypt in a serious manner... but the occupation has set new conditions concerning withdrawal (of troops), the ceasefire, prisoners, and the return of displaced people, which has delayed reaching an agreement," Hamas said in a statement.

It did not elaborate on the conditions imposed by Israel.

Israel swiftly refuted the accusations, saying it was the Palestinian militant group that was creating "new obstacles" to an agreement.

"The terrorist organisation Hamas is once again lying, reneging on understandings already reached, and continuing to create new obstacles in the negotiations," said a statement from the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The latest tit-for-tat accusations came after Netanyahu told the Israeli parliament on Monday that there had been "some progress" in the talks. On Tuesday, his office said Israeli representatives had returned from Qatar after "significant negotiations".

On Wednesday, some relatives of hostages still being held in Gaza urged Netanyahu to reach a deal to bring their loved ones home.

Israeli soldiers detonate an explosive device near the West Bank city of Tulkarem on Tuesday | AP

"It's time to bring them back, Netanyahu. It's up to you... It's about time, don't wait," said Sharon Sharabi, whose two brothers were abducted during the Hamas attack on October 7 last year, reading out a statement at Tel Aviv's Hostages Square. The Israeli military has confirmed that one of the two abducted brothers died in captivity.

Efforts to strike a truce and hostage release deal have repeatedly failed over key stumbling blocks.

Despite numerous rounds of indirect talks, Israel and Hamas have agreed just one truce in the more than 14 months of war, which lasted for a week at the end of 2023. *AFP*

Don likely to pursue death penalty after Biden's pardon

President-elect Donald Trump promised on Tuesday to "vigorously pursue" capital punishment after President Joe Biden commuted the sentences of most people on federal death row partly to stop Trump from pushing forward their executions. Trump criticises Biden's decision on Monday to change the sentences of 37 of the 40 condemned people to life in prison without parole. "When you hear the acts of each, you won't believe that he did this. Makes no sense. Relatives and friends are further devastated. They can't believe this is happening!" he wrote on his social media site. AP

21 dead as violence flares up in Mozambique

MAPUTO

VIOLENCE that engulfed Mozambique after the country's highest court confirmed ruling Frelimo party presidential candidate Daniel Chapo as the winner of disputed Oct 9 elections killed at least 21 people, including two police officers, authorities said Tuesday.

Mozambique Interior Minister Pascoal Ronda told a news conference in Maputo late Tuesday that a wave of violence and looting was sparked by the court's announcement a day earlier.

He said it was led by mostly youthful supporters of losing candidate Venancio Mondlane, who received 24% of the vote, second to Chapo, who got 65%.

"From the preliminary survey, in the last 24 hours, 236 acts of violence were recorded throughout the national territory that resulted in 21 deaths, of which two members of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique also died," Ronda said.

He said 13 civilians and 12 police were injured.

Ronda said 25 vehicles were set on fire, including two police vehicles. He added that 11 police subunits and a penitentiary were attacked and vandalized and 86 inmates were freed.

Tensions were high in the country ahead of the The Constitutional Council ruling on Monday and violent protests started immediately after the announcement was made.

Footage circulating on various social media platforms showed protesters burning and looting shops in the capital Maputo and the city of Beira, where some city officials were reported to have fled the city. *AP*

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU
P & SC. No. 501 /2024

BETWEEN: 1. Sri Y.B. Rajeev, S/o Late Y.N. Balachander and Late Leelachander, Aged about 58 years, R/at No. 35, 1st Main Road, 1st Cross Road, Balaji Layout, Katriguppe, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085.
2. Sri. Y.B. Sanjeev (Sanjeev Yanaganahally Balachander), S/o Late Y.N. Balachander and Late Leelachander, Aged about 53 years, R/at No. 13/1 Elegant Residency, Flat No. GF-1, 2nd Main Road, Vivekanandanagar (Near Ganesha Temple), Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085. **3. Sri. Y.B. Santhosh,** S/o Late Y.N. Balachander and Late Leelachander, Aged about 51 years, R/at No. 204 2nd Floor Banashankari Residency, 8th Main Road, Near Girinagar Police Station, Girinagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085.... ....**PETITIONERS**
AND: NIL ...RESPONDENT
NOTICE
Whereas the above petitioners has filed petition under section 372 of the Indian Succession act 1925 for obtaining Succession certificate on account of the death of Smt. Leelachander W/o Late Y.N. Balachander died on 11-10-2015 of BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka. The case has been posted for hearing on dated **28-01-2025** at 11:00 AM. If anybody as any objection or interest in this behalf, they may come personally or through their advocates before this Hon'ble court to show cause against the petitioners failing which the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-Parte.
SCHEDULE
Item No. 1: 170 Shares/Equity of HDFC bank Ltd at face value Rs. 1/- each associated with Folio No. 0568923.
Item No. 2: 30 Shares/Equity of HDFC bank Ltd at face value Rs. 1/- each associated with Folio No. 6200683.
Given under my hand and sign up the court on 16-12-2024 at Bangalore
By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court at Bengaluru.
Advocate for the Petitioners:
V.C. RUDRESH, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY informed that my clients are intends to purchase the below mentioned schedule property, from its owner Smt. Divya D/o. Chandrappa, aged about 33 years, residing at No.48, 4th Cross, Head Master Layout, CHANDAPURA, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, BANGALORE - 560 099.

If any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest, or any bank, or financial institutions or any encumbrance in the said property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the documents thereof or against the owners or objecting to such sale in favour of my clients should write to the under signed within **seven (07) days** of the issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regards to the schedule property or any part thereof, after which period or my clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of residentially converted **site bearing No. 91, Khatha No. 383/91, as per E-Khatha property bearing No. 150200101800601672 and 2141/91,** in the layout known and called as **'Vasavi units'** formed in converted land bearing **Sy.No. 58/1, 22/4, 2/3, 58/2, 48/1, 58/4, 57/1, 6/3, 43/1, & 58/3 situated at Madivala Village, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 1200 square feet** and bounded on the

East by : Site No.90 in Vasavi Units
West by : Site No. 92 in Vasavi Units
North by : Site No. 60 in Vasavi Units
South by : Road in Vasavi Units

G.A. VISWANATHA REDDY, ADVOCATE
No.45, 6th Main, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar, Bangalore - 560078.
M: 9343796162/ 9449519737

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public is informed that my client M/s Nagarjuna Group of Restaurants earlier M/s Nagarjuna Group of Hotels, Having its office at No: 195, Double Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560038 has filed Commercial suit in Com. O S. No. 1536/2024 against Sri. Bharath Reddy, owner of "NAGRAJUNA" the Andhra Style Hotel, Running its Business at: Ground Floor, Ganapa Towers, Near SBI, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103. The Hon'ble Commercial Court has granted Injunction 20/11/2024 against Mr. Bharath Reddy. The said injunction order is in force till date.

By virtue of the Injunction order granted by the Hon'ble Commercial Court, Bangalore , the general public are informed that the Injunction order is operating against Mr. Bharath Reddy, the same is extracted hereunder,

" The Defendant Mr Bharath Reddy or his agents or persons claiming under him are hereby restrained from using the name "Nagrajuna " or any Trade Name which is phonetically or visually similar to the word "Nagarjuna "

Inspite of the injunction order granted by the Hon'ble Court against Mr Bharath Reddy, he is continuing with his operations , hence my Client with no option has filed contempt petition against Mr Bharath Reddy in Com Mis No 93/2024 which is pending for consideration

Mr. Srinivasa .N, Advocate
No 16, 1st Cross, "H" Colony, Indiranagar 1st Stage Extension Bangalore 560038.
Ph 9845165285

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sree Subramanyeswara Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Yeshwanthpura Branch, Bengaluru, proposes to Grant Mortgage Loan to Sri.Ramesh S. S/o. Sri.Siddagangaiah on the security of Eastern portion of the property bearing No.27, Khatha No.107, of Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, morefully described in the Schedule.

If any person/s, Bank/s, Authorities has/ have any objections for the proposed grant of loan on the security of the property or claims any kind of rights whatsoever on the schedule property may lodge their claims/ objections with documentary proof within **(7) Seven days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, thereafter my client will proceed to complete the loan transaction and any claims received thereafter will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE

Eastern Portion of Property bearing No.27, Khatha No.107, Old Khatha No.585, Assessment No.107, of Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, now comes under B.B.M.P Limits, Ward No.69, measuring East to West 17.6 feet and North to South 40 feet in all measuring 700 sq feet and bounded on:

East by : Property bearing No.26
West by : Remaining Portion of Property No.27
North by : Road
South by : Property No.36

T.S. Mahabaleswara, Advocate
No.29/30, 58th Cross, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010.
Mobile: 98451 83353
Date: 24.12.2024 Place : Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sri B. S. Nagaraj & Smt. K. Komala, residing at No. 45, Flat No. G4, Shiva Ganga Omkar Apt., 2nd Main, Harsha Layout, Yelachenahalli, Bengaluru - 560 062 are intending to purchase the property bearing Site bearing No. 78, 2nd Cross, Anjanadri Layout, Konanakunte Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now within the limits of BBMP measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1200 square feet, Bangalore, from Sri Jagadeesh S.

Persons having any claim, objections etc., in respect of the said sale transaction pertaining to said property may lodge the same with documentary evidence, with the undersigned and also with my Client mentioned above within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Otherwise my client will proceed with the Transaction treating that there are no claims or objections.

(B.R. Viswanath), Advocate,
No. 14/8, 2nd Floor, Jain Temple Street, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004
080-22425606/98450 34560

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2495/MSETCL/CO/ Projects /Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001282)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Conversion of 110kV DCDC to 132kV DCDC line from Mayani Tap to Dighanchi Substation (Route Length-48.86 km) under Karad Zone, MSETCL.".

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 20.12.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before the Central Government (Regional Director, South East Region, Hyderabad)

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of **KAVASSERY PLANTATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED** having its registered office at **Jyotsna Gogineni, 327, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560034,** Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on **14th August 2024** to enable the company to change its Registered office from **"State of Karnataka"** to **"State of Tamil Nadu"**.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver **either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form** or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address **3rd Floor, Corporate Bhawan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad – 500068** within Fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

Jyotsna Gogineni, 327, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560034

For and on behalf of Kavassery Plantations Private Limited
Sd/-
C J Vikram, Director.
DIN: 02504058

Date: 18/12/2024
Place : Karnataka

IN THE COURT OF THE XLIV ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE CCH:45
P & Sc. No.50/2020
(Original Jurisdiction)

(In the matter of the last Will and Testament of Late Sri H. N. Shama Rao S/o. Late Narayan Rao)
Between :
1) H. N. Krishnamurthy, aged about 78 years, S/o. Late Naranaya Rao, R/a No. 1068/A, Jayalakshmi Vilas Road, Chamarajpuram, Mysore- 570 007.
2) Dr. H. N. Raja Rao, Since deceased, rep by legal heirs
P2 (A) Sandhya Raja Rao aged about 62 years wife
P2(B) Deepak Rao aged about 38 years Son
P2 (C) Kasturi Rao aged about 33 years Daughter W/o. Kaushik Srikrishna
All R/a No. 213, 2nd Cross, 38th Main, II Stage, BTM Layout, Bangalore - 560 068
AND
H. N. Venkatesh S/o. Late H. N. Narayana Rao, Aged about 60 years, No. 2, West Anjaneya Temple Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004.
To, Notice to Respondent
H. N. Venkatesh S/o. Late H. N. Narayana Rao, Aged about 60 years, No. 2, West Anjaneya Temple Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the above named petitioners have made to this court a petition under Section 222 and 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, AND for grant of probate under Sec 218 for grant of Succession Certificate, for probate of Will dated 30.11.2018 registered in the Office of the Sub Register Jayanagar Bangalore, entered in book III assigned number JAY-3-00489-2018-19 and preserved in CD No. JAYD-376 by the deceased Late H. N. Shama Rao, brother of petitioner, who died on 15.01.2020. Notice is hereby given to you to appear before the CCH45 XLIV ADDL.CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE in person or by pleader duly instructed on the **15.01.2025, at 11.00 a.m.** to show cause against the petitioners failing which the matter will be heard and declared as Exparte.
Given under my hand and seal this 19th Day of December, 2024.

By Order of the Hon'bleCourt
Sd/-Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Vardhaman V. Gunjal Advocate
No. 9, Model House Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 004.

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001** and one of the Branch Offices **1002/55, KRK Chambers, Ist Main, 4th Block, 80 Feet Dr. Rajkumar Road, Bangaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560010, Bengaluru-Rajaji Nagar Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated **15-10-2024** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) M/s. Mamatha Engineering Industries, No.K-16/A, 15th Cross, Lakshminarayanapuram, Bangalore - 560021. No.2) Mr. R. Bhaskar, S/o. R. Ramalingam, No.12/91-2, 1st Main Road, New Kalappa Block, Ramachandrapuram, Bangalore - 560021. No.3) Mrs. B. Saraswathi, W/o. R. Bhaskar, No.12/91-2, 1st Main Road, New Kalappa Block, Ramachandrapuram, Bangalore - 560021** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.51,65,140/- (Rupees Fifty One Lakh Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred and Forty only)** within **60 days** from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **07-10-2024** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 21st day of December 2024.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.53,42,067/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakh Forty Two Thousand and Sixty Seven only)** and interest thereon from **20-12-2024** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A

Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Mr. R. Bhaskar, S/o. R. Ramalingam)

The Site and Superstructure now Existing and to be put up thereon in future at, All that Piece and Parcel of the Property Bearing Plot No.99 (PID No.075/W0008-80 (Old No.13-41-99), Situated at Old Property Nos.20 & 21, Assessment No.27, Laggere Village, Yeshwanthapur Hubli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Situated at 99, 12th Main Road, J.C.Nagar, Kurabarahalli, Mahalakshmipuram Post, Bangalore - 560086 and with all the easementary within the Following Boundaries : East by : Property No.19, West by : Property No.22, North by : Property Nos.12 & 13, South by : Road. Measuring : East to West - 60 Feet and North to South - 40 Feet in all having an area 2,400 Sq.Ft. together with Building thereon.

Property - 2 : (Property Owned by Mr. R. Bhaskar, S/o. R. Ramalingam)

The Site and Superstructure Now Existing and to be Put up thereon in future at, All that Piece and Parcel of the Property Bearing Site No.12, Property No.21, Formed in Survey No.28, Situated at 15th Cross Road, J C Nagar, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Measuring : East to West - 40 Feet and North to South - 30 Feet in all 1,200 Sq.Ft. together with building constructed thereon and Bounded on the Following : East by : Road, West by : Site No.30, North by : Site No.20, South by : Site No.22.

Place : Bangalore, Date : 21-12-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch
Building No.11/90, 3rd Floor, Opp. Trust Well Hospital, J C Road, Bengaluru - 560 002. Phone: 080- 25943663, Fax : (080) 25943664, Email:sbi.05173@sbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule - 8 (1) (For immovable property)

A/c Nos.CC 64016606086, TL 39863942770

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, J C Road, Bengaluru under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 30.09.2024 calling upon the Borrowers: **M/s.Deepa Solar Systems Private Limited** and **Sri.K.L.Hanumantharaya** S/o Sri.Lakshmappa, **Managing Director of M/s.Deepa Solar Systems Private Limited** & Guarantor and **Smt.Bhanumathi.S** W/o Sri.K.L.Hanumantharaya, Director of **M/s.Deepa Solar Systems Private Limited** & Guarantor,to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.4,53,42,920/-** (Rupees Four Crore Fifty Three Lakh Forty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Only) as on 27.09.2024 with future interest at contractual rate from 28.09.2024 together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Directors/Guarantors/Mortgagers having failed to repay the amount as mentioned in the Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Directors/Guarantors/Mortgagers and the public in general that the undersigned, being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, J C Road, Bengaluru has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules,2002 on **23.12.2024.**

The Borrowers/Directors/Guarantors/Mortgagers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India for an amount of **Rs.4,73,63,235/-** (Rupees Four Crore Seventy Three Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Five Only) as on 16.12.2024 and further interest at contractual rate from 17.12.2024 with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc thereon.

The Borrowers/Directors/Guarantors/Mortgager'sattention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Please note that Possession Notice dated 06.08.2024 issued by us and its paper publication in "The New Indian Express" and "Samyuktha Karnataka" dated 08.08.2024 under section 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 stands withdrawn.

DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE PROPERTIES

PROPERTY NO.1 : All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.30, in Vidyagiri Layout, formed by the Bangalore City Employees Housing and Social Welfare Co-operative Society Limited in Sy Nos.48, 123, 128, 139, 141 and 142 as per the layout plan approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated at Nagarabhavi Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now Corporation No.30 (PID No.39-192-30), Bangalore City Employees HBCS Layout, Corporation Ward No.39, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: (40.6+40.03)/2 feet, totally measuring 1211.25 Sq.feet, with building thereon standing in the name of Sri.K.L.Hanumantharaya S/o Sri.Lakshmappa and bounded on:East by: Park, West by: Site No.31,North by: Road, South by: Site No.40.

PROPERTY NO.2: All that piece and parcel of Site No.24, IDBI Layout, 2nd Main formed in converted Survey No.17/1 and 17/3 of Gottigere Village, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, totally measuring 1,200 Sq. feet, standing in the name of Smt. Bhanumathi.S D/o Sri.S.Siddappa W/o Sri.K.L.Hanumantharaya and bounded on: East by: Site No.23, West by:Site No.25, North by: Road, South by:Site No.32

Sd/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manager
State Bank of India,
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Bengaluru

Place:Bengaluru
Date: 23.12.2024

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13.41 LAKH
Net new members retirement fund body EPFO added in October 2024, according to showed latest payroll data

2024 landmark year for semiconductor industry in India

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THIS year has been a landmark one for the country's semiconductor industry as the government announced first semiconductor fab in Dholera, Gujarat.

The government approved the first fab proposal, which will be set up in partnership with Tata Electronics, a subsidiary of Tata Group, and Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp (PSMC) of Taiwan, at a cost of ₹91,000 crore.

As per the government, the plant will produce 50,000 wafer starts per month (WSPM). Additionally, the government has approved the establishment of two ATMP (assembly, testing, marking, and packaging) units –one in Assam and the other in Dholera, Gujarat. Assam's Morigoan plant, with an investment of ₹27,000 crore, is expected to generate 15,000 direct jobs and 11,000 to 13,000 indirect jobs. Another semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facility, being set up by CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. (CG) with an investment of ₹7,600 crore, is a joint venture with Japan's Renesas Electronics Corporation and Thailand's Stars Microelectronics.

So far, chip industry has attracted investments of ₹1.26 lakh crore, including the approval last year of US semiconductor giant Micron Technology's packaging unit in Gujarat. This year, the government approved a proposal from Kaynes Semicon to establish a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat, ₹3,300 crore investment. The proposed unit will have a capacity of 60 lakh chips a day and will serve a range of applications, including industrial, automotive, electric vehicles, consumer electronics, telecom, and mobile phones. The government maintained that construction of all four chip units is progressing rapidly, and a robust semiconductor ecosystem is emerging around these units.

In a separate development, the Maharashtra government has approved a chip manufacturing project to be jointly set up by Israel's Tower Semiconductor and the Adani Group. The project, located in Panvel, Raigad district, will involve an investment of ₹58,763 crore in the first phase, with an additional ₹25,184 crore in the second phase, creating 15,000 jobs. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has not yet approved any related applications.

NFRA penalty on Deloitte, two auditors

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has imposed a fine of ₹2 crore on Deloitte Haskins & Sells as well as penalties on two chartered accountants for lapses in auditing of Zee Entertainment Enterprises during the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years. Along with slapping a fine of ₹10 lakh, A B Jani has been barred from taking up any audit work for 5 years, while the fine is ₹5 lakh on Rakesh Sharma, and the debarment period is 3 years.

Jani was the Engagement Partner (EP), and Sharma was the Engagement Quality Control Review (EQCR) Partner for the audit of the company for 2018-19 and 2019- 20.

In its probe, NFRA found Deloitte and CA AB Jani committed professional misconduct under provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, which states that a CA is guilty of professional misconduct when he "fails to disclose a material fact known to him which is not disclosed in a financial statement, but disclosure of which is necessary in making such financial statement where he is concerned with that financial statement". NFRA said the charge against the two is proved since Deloitte and Jani failed to disclose absence of an actual reason for closure of a fixed deposit and failed to consider in audit report the impact of the absence of sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the FD matter.

Ola Electric opens 3,200 new stores

Move comes as electric scooter maker faced criticism for its dismal after sales services

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

OLA Electric on Wednesday announced the opening of over 3,200 new stores co-located with service centres across the country to address rising complaints about aftersales service. This expansion comes as the new-age EV maker faces stiff competition from established players in the electric two-wheeler market.

With this move, Ola Electric's network has grown to 4,000 stores nationwide, a four-fold rise from its previous footprint. "Today marks a significant milestone in India's EV journey as we expand our network to every city, town, and taluk. With our newly opened stores co-located with service centres, we have completely redefined EV purchase & ownership experience, setting new benchmarks with our #SavingsWalaScooter campaign," said Bhavish Aggarwal, Chairman & managing director, Ola Electric.

In recent months, Ola Electric and its leadership faced severe criticism from customers over shortcomings in aftersales service for its e-scooters. Complaints included the unavailability of spare parts and inadequate technical expertise among service staff. The situation escalated to the point where the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued a show-cause notice to Ola Electric for alleged violations of consumer rights, misleading advertisements, and unfair trade practices.

These issues, coupled with negative publicity, impacted Ola Electric's sales and market share. According to Vahan data, Ola Electric registered 27,746 e-scooters in November 2024, with a market share of just over 25%, its lowest monthly market share to date. This marked a sharp decline from the 49.8% market share it held in May and 28.6% in September.

Ola's competitors TVS Motor and Bajaj Auto have been narrowing their sales gap with Ola. TVS recorded 26,036 registrations, accounting for a 23.55% market share in November while Pune-based Bajaj Auto was in the third spot with 24,798 registrations, representing a 22.59% market share.

To boost sales, Ola Electric will be launching one new product every quarter and expanding its company-owned store footprint to 2,000 by March 2025. Ola Electric in August had launched its Roadster motorcycle series with the first product to be delivered in March 2025.

Ola Electric also said on Wednesday that it has rolled out attractive offers with benefits ranging up to ₹25,000 on the S1 portfolio, exclusively available on December 25, 2024.

Company's network grows from 800 to 4,000 stores

This expansion comes as the new-age EV maker faces stiff competition from established players in electric two-wheeler market. With this, Ola Electric's network grew to 4,000 stores, a four-fold rise from its previous footprint. In recent months, Ola Electric and its leadership faced criticism from the customers over shortcomings in aftersales service for its e-scooters.

Global Capability Centres to expand workforce in India by 20% in 2025

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

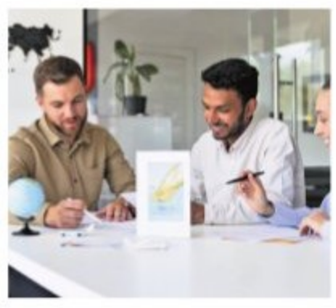
TOP executives from across various sectors believe Global Capability Centres (GCCs) landscape will expand further in 2025. In 2024, GCCs and their growth, apart from job opportunities, were widely discussed by the top executives across various sectors. As of 2024, there are over 1,700 GCCs, more than 2,975 units, employing over 1.9 million people in the country.

Bengaluru alone accounts for over 870 GCCs, followed by Hyderabad with 550 centres. Vikram Ahuja, co-founder, ANSR and CEO of Talent500, points out that GCCs in the country will expand their workforce by 18-20% in 2025, and that hiring will surpass 2024 levels. According to ANSR, over 60,000 jobs were created by GCCs in 2024 in Bengaluru alone.

Karnataka released its GCC policy in November and it aims to establish 500 new GCCs by 2029. Upasna Nischal, India site head and head of HR-India, Fidelity International, said the number, kind and quality of capabilities that are delivered from India continue to grow and evolve and now nearly 90% of the GCCs operate as multi-functional centres, supporting technology, operations, product engineering and more.

Close to $64 billion business is generated by GCCs. Guardian India, the GCC for the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, plans to ramp up its hiring in 2025 as compared to the previous year.

"In 2025, we aim to expand our workforce and capability substantially to meet the growing demands of our parent organisation, to improve capability and drive innovation," said Shiney Prasad, country head, Guardian India. It aims to scale its operations in both Gurugram and Chennai. Its key areas include technology—particularly in AI/ML, data science, suggestive decisioning, business operations — and specialised roles in actuarial, finance and underwriting.



Bengaluru alone accounts for 870 GCCs

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States capex down 43% due to welfare schemes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AN RBI report says welfare schemes announced by several state governments in their 2024-25 Budgets - including free electricity to agriculture and households, free transport, allowances to unemployed youth and monetary assistance to women - may divert resources away from critical social and economic infrastructure development.

The RBI's report titled – Government Finances 2024-25: A Half-Yearly Review – noted substantial drop in capex by states during the first half of the current fiscal. The report cites example of the Centre's scheme – 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment'– under which the expenditure has come down to ₹30,040 crore during first half of FY25 as against ₹53,541 crore during same period last year. On the positive side, the report says that states have seen growth in their revenue receipts during H1FY25 driven by growth in tax revenues.

EXPRESS READ

IndiGo expects to carry 112 mn passengers in '24

Mumbai: IndiGo expects to carry 112 million passengers in 2024 and will become a leading player in global aviation, its chief Pieter Elbers said. In 2023, the airline flew over 100 million passengers. Its domestic market share of 63.6%, is expanding its international network. *ENS*

India's GDP growth seen at 6.5% in FY25: EY

New Delhi: India's economy is likely to grow by 6.5% in the current and the next financial year, an EY report said, attributing lower than anticipated expansion in the September quarter to fall in private consumption expenditure and gross fixed capital formation. *ENS*

FPI inflows into Indian equities drop in 2024

New Delhi: After a robust 2023, foreign investors scaled back investments in Indian equities in 2024, with net inflows amounting to over ₹5,000 crore, as elevated domestic valuations, coupled with geopolitical uncertainties prompted investors to adopt a more cautious stance. *ENS*

BPCL to invest ₹6,100 cr for refinery in Andhra

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

STATE-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has approved plans to build a new refinery in Andhra Pradesh. In an exchange filing, the company said it will invest about ₹6,100 crore in pre-project activities for the refinery.

BPCL's board has granted approval to begin initial activities for setting up a greenfield refinery and petrochemical complex on the East Coast of India. The pre-project activities will involve a range of crucial tasks, including initial studies, land identification and acquisition, preparation of a detailed feasibility report (DFR), environmental impact assessment (EIA), basic design engineering package, and front-end engineering design (FEED), the company said in the filing.

The refinery and petrochemical complex is expected to become one of the largest refineries on India's East Coast, following the 15 MTPA Paradip refinery by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in Odisha and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation's (HPCL) expanded Visakhapatnam refinery in Andhra Pradesh. The BPCL refinery is a part of the commitments made under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act of 2014.

This development follows reports suggesting that Saudi Arabia is interested in investing in BPCL's upcoming refinery as part of its broader strategy to expand energy footprint. In 2019, Saudi Arabia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India to invest $100 billion across sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, and energy. BPCL's decision to expand its refinery capacity comes in response to a gap between its refinery throughput and sales. In fiscal 2023-24, BPCL's refinery throughput was 39.9 MT, while its sales was at 51.04 MT.

To be one of the largest refineries on East Coast

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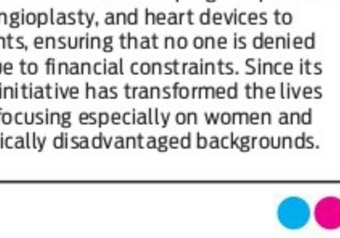
Srinivasan resigns from India Cements as UltraTech gets CCI nod to buy entire stake

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

N Srinivasan, erstwhile promoter, has resigned from the post of CEO and MD of India Cements after the Competition Commission of India (CCI) gave its approval to UltraTech Cement buying entire promoter stake in the Chennai-based company.

In an exchange filing, India Cements said: "The erstwhile promoters and members of the promoter group, N Srinivasan, Chitra Srinivasan, Rupa Gurunath, EVVS Finance & Investments, SK Asokh Baalaje, Financial Service Trust, Security Services Trust and Chennai Super Kings Cricket, who no longer hold shares of the company, cease to be promoters/members of the promoter group..."In his resignation letter, Srinivasan said consequent to divestment of his shareholdings in India Cements, he tenders his resignation as vice-chairman & MD, director and CEO of The India Cements with immediate effect.

UltraTech in July announced acquisition of 32.72% stake in India Cements from promoters & their associates. Aditya Birla Group will pay ₹3,954 crore at ₹390 a share for buying 28.42% stake of promoters – Srinivasan N, Chitra Srinivasan, Rupa Gurunath and S K Asokh Baalaje, and a 4.30% share from Sri Saradha Logistics.



Food delivery app Waayu expands to 25 cities

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

ZERO-commission food delivery app Waayu, which announced its expansion into 25 cities across the country, aims to onboard 10,000 restaurants in six months and targets 1 lakh restaurants in three years.

Currently it operates in Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru, and it has partnered with Bizwell, a franchise consultancy, to facilitate its expansion.

In September, it joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The app is backed by Mumbai-based Indian Hotel and Restaurant Association (AHAR), among other industry bodies, and actor Suniel Shetty is its brand ambassador. The app was founded in 2022 by Anirudha Kotgire and Mandar Lande to take on big players such as Zomato and Swiggy.

It aims to capture 30% of the country's online food delivery market. With the support of ONDC and partnerships with platforms like Tata Neu, OLA, Paytm, Pidge and Bajaj Finserv. Waayu said it ensures seamless customer experiences, from restaurant discovery to last-mile delivery.

"Waayu is here to revolutionize food delivery in India," said Mandar Lande, Co-Founder & CEO of the app. "By eliminating commission fees, we're empowering restaurants to maximise their profits and offer customers better value," he added.

Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 promises to be yet another landmark event

Kolkata: The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 promises to be yet another landmark event, following the resounding success of last year's edition, heralding a new era of collaboration and innovation in the mobility sector. As the industry converges to shape the future, this expo stands as a testament to India's commitment to engineering excellence and sustainable mobility solutions. The global expo celebrates India's growing role as a global hub for mobility, showcasing success across the automotive and mobility value chain and cutting-edge technologies. Inspired by the 7Cs mobility vision set by the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, the global expo celebrates India's growing role as a global hub for mobility, showcasing success across the automotive and mobility value chain and cutting-edge technologies.

Business & Beyond

HPCL expands free heart care initiative with new partnership

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has taken a significant step to bring life-saving heart care closer to those in need. The company has signed an MoU with Prashanti Medical Services & Foundation to support Sri Sathya Sai Hospitals, strengthening its flagship "Dil Without Bill" initiative. This program provides free heart surgeries, angioplasty, and heart devices to underprivileged patients, ensuring that no one is denied critical cardiac care due to financial constraints. Since its launch in 2011-12, the initiative has transformed the lives of over 5,575 people, focusing especially on women and children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Central Bank zonal office Chennai celebrated 114th Foundation Day

Central Bank of India, Zonal Office, Chennai along with Regional Office and all its local Branches celebrated 114th Bank Foundation Day The day started with garlanding and lighting of the lamp on the portrait of the founder of the Bank, Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala followed by health check-up camp for staff members and customers . A felicitation ceremony cum Musical evening organized by the Bank , where valued customers, staff and their family members participated. First of all Sri Pawan Agrawal Regional Head, Chennai welcomed the gathering. Zonal Head Mr K. shashidhar in his presidential address highlighted the glorious history of the Bank and appealed all to work with full devotion and dedication for the progress of the Bank. He also commend each staff and their families – for their unwavering commitment.

NADA update on Hima suspension creates confusion

Sprinter Hima Das, who was exonerated for a 'whereabouts' failure by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), was handed a retrospective suspension by the same body in an unusual turn of events. The suspension period ran from July 22, 2023 to November 21, 2024 and she is now free to take part in tournaments but what has created a flutter is that the she had been competing as recently as in June this year.

Booming Bumrah

PACER, WHO BURST ONTO THE SCENE SIX YEARS AGO, HAS GOTTEN BETTER WITH TIME TO BECOME ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BOWLERS OF HIS ERA

SAM Konstas addressed the media on Monday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The 19-year-old is all set to become the youngest Test opener ever to have played for Australia. Head coach Andrew McDonald spoke to the media on Tuesday, and then Australia captain Pat Cummins followed on the eve of the Boxing Day Test.

It doesn't matter who comes for a press conference, at some point or other, one of the questions posed in front of them is — How do you counter Jasprit Bumrah?

Even the Indian captain wasn't spared. On Tuesday, he was asked what it is like to have Bumrah in his side and the kind of discussions he usually has with the pacer who is also now his deputy.

Six years ago, it wasn't necessarily the case. Bumrah, at that point, was still a rookie in the longest format but had made a mark with fifers in South Africa and England before coming to Australia. Back then, the mystery was around the unique action — the discussion unfortunately still revolves around it — of a bowler who was coming up the ranks in white-ball cricket.

And then THAT delivery happened at the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. India had been searching for wickets on a slow pitch and on the brink of lunch. Sharma, who was standing at mid-off, had suggested Bumrah to try a slower one. These are two brilliant white-ball stars who have played a lot together, coming up with an idea that may or may not work. That was only the first step. The most important one, perhaps, was the execution.

Which is where the genius of Bumrah comes in. Up against Shaun Marsh on Day three, Bumrah held the ball in both hands and hopped on like he always does. As he reached the crease, he went through the same motions that he always had. Just about when he was releasing the ball, Bumrah rolled his wrist. The elder of the Marsh brothers had no idea what was gonna hit him. He waited for a thunderbolt, and the ball came right at him before dipping in front, sliding under the bat and hitting him on the toes. The finger went up and Bumrah had trapped Marsh while bowling over the critics and legends of the game.

How was he able to do that? Former India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey attributes it to the dexterity of his wrists. "The way he used the slower one. He's not the back of the hand, he's more like an off-spinner. Vis-a-vis, if you look at Mustafizur Rahman, he is another bowler who uses a slower one very well. Boom (Bumrah) is in the right-hand category, a much far better bowler than others in the world. But purely because of the way he uses his wrist, it is kind of like a spinner's slower one. There are a lot of forward rotations that he generates and because of that, it's like a spinner with the ball dips. That really makes a difference for the batter to really pick up," Mhambrey told this daily earlier.

That was a peak moment for Bumrah on his first outing at the MCG. The incredible thing, and perhaps unbelievable even, is that he hasn't come down from there in six years. If anything, he has just prolonged his time there like no one else has. And that, from an Indian point of view, is one of a kind. India have always have their batting prodigies who come in and grow into a legend — Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and so on.

Never in the history of the sport India has had someone who burst onto the scene as a superstar and has remained at that level, and has if anything, gotten better without going down ever. Bumrah hasn't so far. Since his debut, no one, with minimum 150 Test wickets, has a lower average than he does. Only Kagiso Rabada has a marginally better strike rate than he does, but the South African gets conditions that are the most helpful for pacers across the world.

PIC: AFP

Take Kohli for example, it took him at least four years in Test cricket to become a superstar who can win matches all by himself. Bumrah did it in his debut series and has been doing it since forever. If anything, he has only gotten to ridiculous levels of consistency since coming back from injury lay off last year.

In the ongoing series against Australia, he has taken 21 wickets in three matches at an average of 10.9. The next best average is Josh Hazlewood, but he has only six wickets and is ruled out for the series. Take him out of the equation and India do not have a leg to stand on. So when an emotional Mohammed Siraj said, "I only believe in Jassi bhai, he is game changer," in Barbados after Bumrah helped India win their long-elusive T20 World Cup, it was no exaggeration.

While a lot has been said about his action, what often not gets talked about is the genius that he is in mind and the work that goes behind the scenes. Bumrah has been a workhorse long before he came to Test cricket. In fact, on his first ever red-ball outing Down Under with India A in 2014, Bumrah took a fifer.

This time, he almost had one in Adelaide and has taken one each in Perth and Brisbane. The pin point accuracy in his execution comes with the time he puts in. "He practises all his skills that he is going to be executing and which is required in the game. He practises a lot. So, it's not only before the game, it's also after the game, there's a lot of practice sessions. He's mastered his skill, right? It's just knowing which ball to bowl at what time, that's all that really matters in his case. But he does practise," explained Mhambrey.

Two days out from the Boxing Day Test, Bumrah is bowling at the MCG nets. Clearly, the fans have received a memo not to chant or shout at the players. He has an intense session and is easily the one who troubles the batters all the most. It had been a few hours and now Bumrah takes guard to bat. He had done it before on the field, including Brisbane, where he and Akash Deep helped India avoid follow-on. Fans had been worn down for a while in the heat and when Bumrah nails a pull in the nets, one of them couldn't help it. "I only believe in Jassi bhai," yells a fan and others join in.

This is just the teaser. As India take the field in front of 100000 fans on Boxing Day, the phrase will be echoed in the hallowed halls of the Melbourne Cricket Ground. For India believes in Bumrah like no other bowler in the past and he has earned it.

(With inputs from Swaroop Swaminathan)

* Min 150 wickets

MOST 5-FERS SINCE BUMRAH DEBUT*

Name	M	W	AVG	SR	5-fer
Bumrah	43	194	19.52	42.5	12
Cummins	55	239	22.17	45.4	12
Lyon	58	243	29.02	62.7	12
Taijul	35	163	30.07	60.9	12
Ashwin	51	233	22.12	48	11
Rabada	45	214	21.41	38.9	9

42.5 Bumrah's strike rate. Only Rabada (38.9) has a better strike rate than him since the Indian made his debut

10.9 Bumrah's average in ongoing BGT as the pacer leads the bowling charts with 21 wickets in three games

From Melbourne with season's greetings

GOMESH S @Melbourne

TRAVIS HEAD was running back and forth on one corner of the outfield at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. As you walk out a little and come to the nets, Steve Smith, Marnus Labuchagne and Sam Konstas were batting in the outdoor nets. It's 8.45 AM on a sunny Christmas Day morning and those are the only two sections of the entire venue that were going on like business as usual. Out on the field, it was hard to keep count of what was happening. On one side, Nathan Lyon was bowling to a few kids as Labuschagne was throwing around the ball. Mitchell Marsh was holding his newborn and Pat Cummins' partner was playing with their son as the Australian captain was trying to juggle between captaincy and dad duties.

While Head was doing what he was doing because of the fitness test he had to go through, it was hard not to imagine Smith and Labuschagne bat on any given day. Konstas, meanwhile, was trying to work on some last-minute things before his historic debut. For the rest, it was a day of family and unwinding before the big Boxing Day Test. For a group who travels for better part of the year, they get to spend the evening with their respective families on Christmas Eve before getting together at the ground. The players and their partners have their share of fun while recording the memories they make as much as possible. At one point, Lyon told the local staff that he and his family were going to walk back to the hotel. Usman Khawaja took a stroll with his daughter and wife even as Head went out to have a hit in the nets before finalising his place in the XI.

Cummins called it an extended family. "At the moment it's chaos," laughed Cummins when asked about what it was like to have their families here together for Christmas. "There is on average probably two kids per person so there is about 30-40 kids running around. It's great fun, all the partners get along so well, this year we haven't had as many partners travelling because everyone has got young ones at home they have all come together for Melbourne and Sydney Test. It is always a great time of the year. We will go off to Christmas lunch after this and all the kids have got presents this morning and running around hyper. It's absolute chaos but it's awesome," he added.

From a cricketing point of view, Cummins confirmed the playing XI and even took some pressure off Konstas, who will be making his debut. As someone who made his debut at an even younger age, Cummins said that the messaging has been about doing what he has done so far. "I think you always want to do well (but) I was saying this to Sam the other day, I remember that as an 18-year-old, I was thinking I got a lot more leeway because I was young," Cummins said jokingly. "It almost felt like if I didn't have a great game, it wasn't my fault. It was the selectors' fault for picking me. I was like, 'Well, they're the idiots who picked an 18-year-old.' You're so young starting out your career (and) it's Boxing Day. It doesn't get any better than this. Just enjoy the moment."

The Indian team, meanwhile, have taken an off day themselves. They had an intense training session on Tuesday afternoon, but will come back on Thursday ready to roar. And so will the Australian team. The tickets are sold out. About 1,00,000 fans are expected to fill the MCG as Jasprit Bumrah or Mitchell Starc runs in for the first ball of the day. It is going to be hot, it is going to be packed and it is going to be an enthralling contest.

Australia captain Pat Cummins addressing media on Wednesday | AFP

> **There is on average probably two kids per person so there is about 30-40 kids running around. It's great fun, all the partners get along so well, this year we haven't had as many partners travelling because everyone has got young ones at home they have all come together for Melbourne and Sydney Test. It is always a great time of the year. We will go off to Christmas lunch after this and all the kids have got presents this morning and running around hyper. It's absolute chaos but it's awesome.**
>
> Pat Cummins, Australia skipper

Where will India captain bat?

GOMESH S @ Melbourne

IT'S been a question that followed India captain Rohit Sharma from the moment he landed in Perth. While there's no question that Sharma has struggled for form since the start of the home season against Bangladesh, the fact that KL Rahul was the best batter for India in Perth meant, the senior walking back in was not as straightforward.

India won the first Test and debates over Sharma's position only grew in the lead up to the pink-ball match against Prime Minister's XI in Canberra. With the Indian captain batting in middle-order there, it was all but confirmed that he was moving down. And Sharma confirmed the same in Adelaide.

However, despite the move, runs weren't coming. His poor run continued in Adelaide and Brisbane but the one thing Sharma has done all through this tour is to give direct answers for any team related questions. Until Tuesday. When Sharma was asked if he would continue to bat in middle-order, for the first time in the series, the Indian captain didn't give a straight answer. "Let's not worry about who bats where," Sharma said before adding, "Something that we need to figure out and not something I would be discussing here. We will do what is best for the team." Is it an indication of him contemplating opening again or is there some other shuffle the team is trying to make, only time will tell.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Coaching & playing: Twin role with purpose for badminton nat'ls finalists

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

SHUTTLERS Lokeshviswanathan and Naveen P's journey is a tale of perseverance, hard work and resourcefulness. In the just-concluded national championships in Bengaluru, the doubles specialists from Tamil Nadu were one of the standout performers as they reached the title match before going down with a fight. What makes their effort noteworthy is the fact that their day job is coaching the sport, something they took up out of passion and to meet their day-to-day expenses.

This is uncommon, especially among some of the top medal contenders at the domestic circuit, who generally tend to have a healthy support system. A lot of them are associated with some of the famed academies in the country. "To meet our day-to-day expenses, we have to take up coaching. The other players will be training for four to five hours per day. We generally train for the last 10 days or so before we take part in matches," Lokeshviswanathan said.

The top talents are generally funded for international events, where they can obtain much-needed exposure. More importantly, they also gain ranking points in order to be eligible for marquee events and a chance to represent the country. That is still a distant dream for Lokeshviswanathan and Naveen, who have multiple state titles to their name. "Even if we take part in four or five international tournaments, we won't have enough ranking points," Lokeshviswanathan noted.

Naveen P (L) and Lokeshviswanathan in action during the national c'ships | BAI

Having endured many challenging days in their early playing career, Lokeshviswanathan, who got his coaching certificate from SAI NIS Patiala, is hoping to pass on the knowledge to the youngsters. They are running a private academy in Coimbatore, where 20 professionals and 20 beginners are part of the training programme. "I started playing in senior nationals in 2015. For doubles, there was no proper coaching in place. Due to financial constraints, we also didn't go to any academies. At the time, I felt only Gopichand Academy had good coaching for doubles. We would go to tournaments, and each time we would rework our shortcomings. It was a constant process. I would lose in Round of 32. To reach the semifinals itself, it took me around six to seven years. Now, the juniors are not facing that issue with a better training programme," he said.

They might not have the support needed to thrive at the international level but they have had the push from the Tamil Nadu Badminton Association. Naveen, who originally hails from a tiny village in Sathyamangalam, is also on the page when it comes to coaching. Gone are those days when they used to fall at the first hurdle. Having laboured so hard to come this far, they hope to play for the country one day.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Maheshwari and Anantjeet capture skeet mixed team title

NEW DELHI: Maheshwari Chauhan and Anantjeet Singh Naruka won the skeet mixed team title for their home state Rajasthan in the National Shooting Championship here on Wednesday. In the final, the pair pulled off a 44-43 victory over Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Areeba Khan of Uttar Pradesh. Punjab's Ganemat Sekhon and Abhay Singh Sekhon won the bronze medal.

Pro Kabaddi League Season 11 playoffs from today

PUNE: The PKL Season 11's playoffs is all set to commence from Thursday. In the fray for the top prize are Haryana Steelers and UP Yoddhas, and along with them are three-time champs Patna Pirates, Season 8 winners Dabang Delhi KC, Season 1 & 9 title holders Jaipur Pink Panthers, and Season 2 champs U Mumba, who sealed qualification in the last game of the league stage.

Weightlifter Martina clinches silver at junior Asian meet

DOHA: Indian lifter Martina Devi clinched a silver medal in the women's junior +87kg category at the Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships here on Wednesday. The 18-year-old from Manipur lifted a total of 225kg (96kg+129kg) to finish second in the three-lifter field. She also won a silver medal for her clean and jerk effort and a bronze for her snatch.

SA eye WTC final in 2-Test series vs Pak

AP @ Centurion

SOUTH AFRICA will be eyeing a place in the World Test Championship final with an all-seam attack against Pakistan in the first Test, starting Thursday.

The Proteas need to win one of its remaining two Tests in this WTC cycle to guarantee a place at the Lord's final next year. They have included four fast bowlers in the lineup with Corbin Bosch set to play his first Test at his hometown. Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen will team up with Dane Paterson and Bosch to challenge Pakistan's batters on an expected pacey Centurion pitch where fast bowlers have picked up 227 wickets with spinners dismissing only 16 batters over the last 6 years.

PL leaders Liverpool host Leicester, Arsenal prepare for life without Saka

AFP @ London

CHRISTMAS Premier League chart-toppers Liverpool are overwhelming favourites to see off struggling Leicester on Boxing Day (Thursday).

Meanwhile both crisis-hit Manchester clubs will seek a festive fillip, with faltering champions City at home to Everton and United away to Wolves. Second-placed Chelsea host Fulham while in-form Arsenal will fancy their chances against relegation-threatened Ipswich on Friday, even without the injured Bukayo Saka. Ange Postecoglou's Tottenham face a tough assignment at high-flying Nottingham Forest.

Liverpool are top the table on Christmas Day for the first time since the 2020/21 season and will want to make it count. Just once in the past seven top-flight campaigns in which they have sat at the summit on December 25, have they gone on to win the title. Arne Slot's side returned to winning ways in style on Sunday, overwhelming Spurs following two frustrating draws. They are four points clear of Chelsea with a game in hand. It would be a huge surprise if they slipped up against Leicester at home, especially with Mohamed Salah enjoying a purple patch. The Egypt international is the first player to reach double figures for both goals (15) and assists (11) before Christmas in the history of the PL. Leicester won their first match under new manager Ruud van Nistelrooy earlier this month but have collected just a single point in their past three matches, conceding nine goals. The leaky Foxes have not won at Anfield since 2000 and are just two points clear of the drop zone after returning to the top flight this season.

Fixtures (Thursday 8:30PM unless stated): Manchester City v Everton (6PM), Bournemouth v Crystal Palace, Chelsea v Fulham, Newcastle v Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest v Tottenham, Southampton v West Ham, Wolves v Manchester United (11PM), Liverpool v Leicester (1:30AM Friday).

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

XPLORE Travel

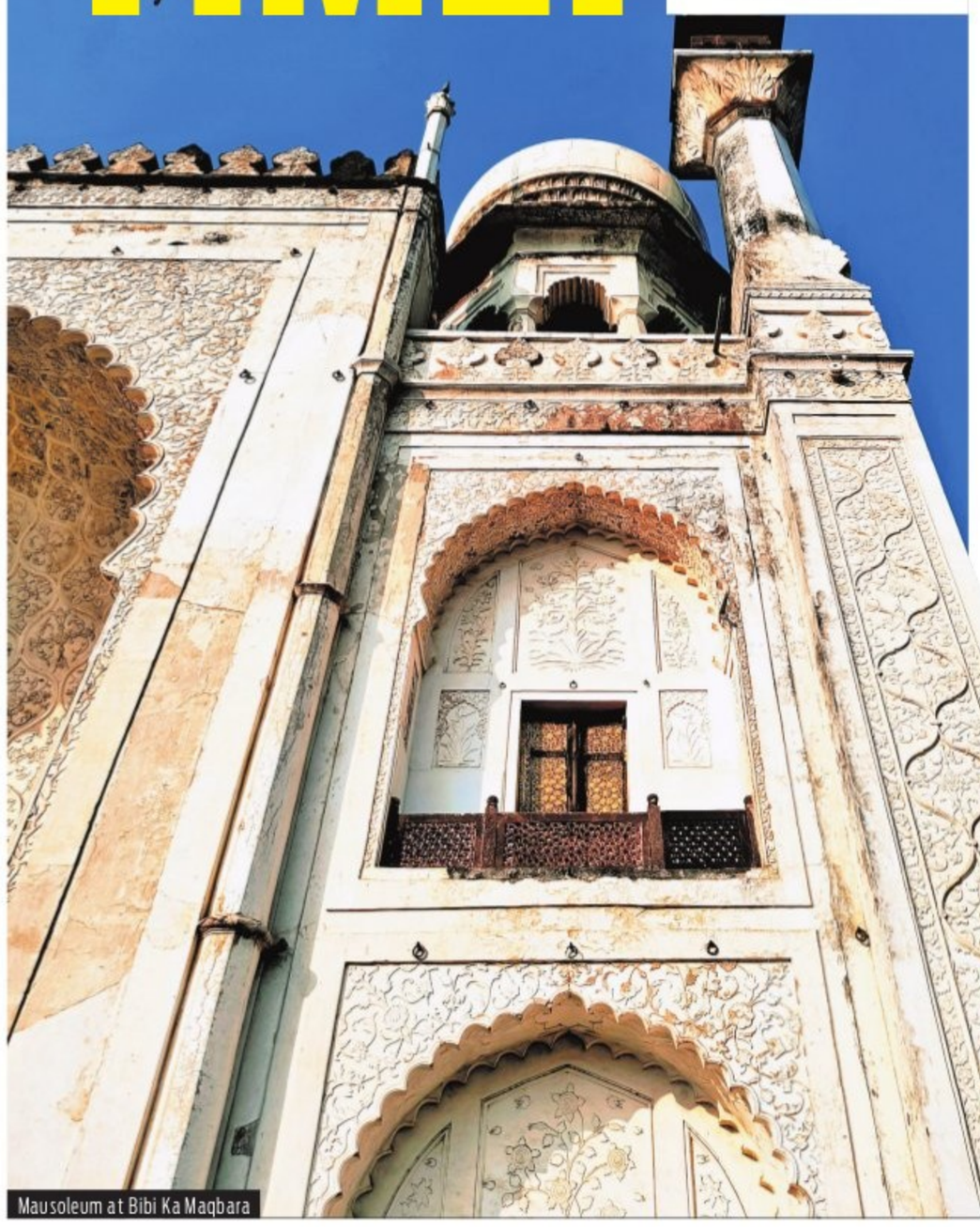
16 BENGALURU THURSDAY 26.12.2024 newindianexpress.com

Temperatures in Mount Abu, Rajasthan drop to 1.4 degrees celsius prompting snowfall

Odisha's Mayurbhanj and Sundergarh districts recieve rare snowfall and heavy frost

ONCE UPON A TIME!

Here's a look into how Aurangabad can become a unique and enriching New Year holiday getaway destination...



Mausoleum at Bibi Ka Maqbara

PRANAV SHRIRAM

IT'S the most joyful time of the year and travel is the most popular way to spend the holidays! India has a thriving range of popular Christmas and New Year's holiday destinations, so much so, that repeated trips to such locations year after year may have rendered them moot as an option! But our recent visit to Maharashtra's Aurangabad, officially renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in 2023, made us realise that this destination can be an enriching, affordable and an offbeat option to explore this holiday. As a result, we have curated an informative guide of places you must visit along with a preview of an exciting festival coming up early next month in the city!

Among the list of must-visit places in the city, Ellora is an hour-and-a-half drive away from the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Airport. A UNESCO World Heritage Site in the district of Aurangabad, this cluster of close to 100 caves preserved carefully for many years after its excavation is a reflection of the marvel of human capabilities and a peaceful coexistence among people of different faiths – a feature that our land has possessed since aeons.

Bibi Ka Maqbara

Ajanta Caves

Carvings at Ellora Caves

Stay:
Hyatt Place
Aurangabad Airport

Nearest airport & railhead:
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

The destination can make for a great New Year's location this year especially because of the upcoming *Ellora Ajanta Festival*. Set to begin on January 20, this three-day festival is going to feature great cultural performances. Becoming a household celebration of the cultures and traditions of Aurangabad, along with paying respects to the marvels of Ajanta and Ellora, this festival has grown to become one of the biggest fests to come out of the city. The festival will include a dance performance by Nidhi Prabhu, a folk music performance by Shahir Ramanand Ugle, a tabla performance by Sai Barabote and lots more. Featuring carvings from 600 to 1000 AD, Ellora Caves contain the largest range of structures carved out of rock including temples, monasteries, idols carved out of single pieces of rock, lava channels situated along these caves and more! With generations of history stored in the carvings of the ceilings, walls and even floors of these temples, Ellora's Cave 16, known as *Kailasa* is 'the world's largest single monolithic structure' as described by the Archaeological Survey of India. While the natural landscape embedded in its ecosystem in its full force can be witnessed during monsoons, winters provide bright yet energetic sunlight, a blue sky, pleasant walks leading up to each successive cave and more! For us munching on some fresh cucumber (available outside the entrance of the premises) kept us going for hours.

With over a 2-hour drive from the airport, Ajanta Caves is another must-visit site for you should you choose to head to Aurangabad. Sitting atop the hills on the banks of the Waghora River, the Ajanta Caves is a cluster of 30 caves that house a vast range of paintings and murals. This UNESCO World Heritage Site reflects the best of the age-old Buddhist rock carvings, as well!

As you head out for this excursion be sure to carry loads of fluids to keep yourself hydrated. If you aren't big on cardio exercises, we advise you to do so as the various flights of stairs on the terrain connecting the caves ascend and descend quite a bit.

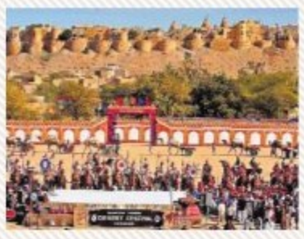
Bibi Ka Maqbara is also a popular site to visit! About 30-40 minutes from the airport, it is an enriching option for a day filled with sightseeing. Constructed by the Mughal prince Azam Shah for his wife Dilras, it reflects a spitting image of the Taj Mahal in Agra. Made using porphyritic stone, the Taj of Deccan, as it is also known can make for a beautiful evening filled with the winter breeze, a pleasant stroll and enriching conversations.

TRAVEL DIARY

Brahmaputra Carnival takes off!

Perfect for a New Year getaway or holiday season retreat, this riverside Guwahati *Brahmaputra Carnival*, running until March 15, offers speedboat rides, kayaking, bungee jumping and traditional performances. Indulge in local cuisine and unwind with luxury glamping under the stars and visit nearby attractions including the iconic Kamakhya Temple. The festival is conveniently accessible from Guwahati airport and railway station.

Jaisalmer Desert Festival returns in 2025



Mark your calendars for the *Jaisalmer Desert Festival 2025* or *Maru Mahotsav*, a mesmerising cultural extravaganza in Rajasthan's Thar Desert from February 21-24. This vibrant event showcases traditional Rajasthani folk music, the enchanting *kalbeliya* dance, camel races and quirky competitions like turban-tying and a moustache contest. As the sun sets, the festival culminates in a spectacular fireworks display, illuminating the desert skies.

Heritage Transport Museum in Gurugram welcomes new exhibits

SRUSHTI KULKARNI

FOR travellers eager to dive into India's cultural and industrial history, the Heritage Transport Museum in Tauru-Gurugram is a must-visit destination. Positioned just off National Highway 8, this trailblazing museum offers an engaging look at the country's transportation evolution, from traditional modes of travel to modern innovations. The museum is the result of decades of dedication by Tarun Thakral, founder of the Heritage Transportation Trust. This non-profit organisation was established to preserve, document and share India's transportation history.

Since its opening in 2013, the Heritage Transport Museum has welcomed visitors to explore its meticulously designed spaces. To celebrate its 11th anniversary, the museum unveiled two thought-provoking exhibitions, *Light Years Ahead* and *Prints of the Divine*. Open to the public till March 31 2025, these exhibitions juxtapose the past with imaginative glimpses of the future. *Prints of the Divine* showcases an extraordinary collection of oleographs, lithographic plates and postcards, some of which are being displayed for the first time to commemorate this occasion. Meanwhile, *Light Years Ahead* offers a futuristic perspective, inviting visitors to reflect on the intersection of tradition and innovation. After their run at the museum, the exhibitions will embark on a tour across India, bringing these compelling narratives to a wider audience. The launch event was attended by notable figures, including Rama Varma Thampuran, a descendant of artist Raja Ravi Varma and Rajiv Lochan, a renowned musician and former director of the National Gallery of Modern Art.

Registered under the *Indian Trust Act of 1882*, the trust reflects a collector's passion for uncovering rare and extraordinary artefacts. What began as a personal endeavour to understand transportation's evolution has transformed into a public institution celebrating this rich heritage. Spread over three acres, the museum features four floors of exhibits within 90,000 square feet of air-conditioned facilities. Its offerings include interactive galleries, a library, a mini auditorium and even a restaurant, making it an ideal destination for families and curious travellers alike. Visitors can explore exhibits on topics such as pre-mechanised transportation, rural travel, heavy vehicles, railways, aviation and maritime history. There's even a gallery dedicated to collectable toys themed around transport and contemporary art inspired by motor vehicles.

With over 3,500 objects on display, the Heritage Transport Museum provides a fascinating lens into India's history, culture and ingenuity.

To commemorate over two decades of this museum, it unveils two thought-provoking exhibitions, *Light Years Ahead* and *Prints of the Divine*...

From surfing and wellness festivals to the unveiling of several new museums, the UAE capital's diverse attractions make it the ideal getaway for the New Year and beyond...

SRUSHTI KULKARNI

AS the New Year dawns, Abu Dhabi is ready to dazzle travellers with an extraordinary lineup of entertainment, sports and cultural experiences, making it the ultimate destination for the 2025 holiday season. With offerings ranging from wellness retreats to world-class concerts and adrenaline-pumping sport events, there's truly something for everyone. The Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT) Abu Dhabi has curated an impressive programme to entice Indian travellers and global visitors alike, ensuring the UAE capital remains at the forefront of holidaymakers' plans.

Kick-starting the year, Abu Dhabi's *Saadiyat Nights* will return from January 4 to February 22 2025, presenting a stellar lineup of open-air concerts. The series will feature captivating performances by renowned Egyptian composer Omar Khairat and the beloved American vocal harmony group Boyz II Men, with more star acts to be revealed soon.

The Kayan Wellness Festival will take place from January 31 to February 2, 2025. This serene retreat offers yoga, breathwork, sound healing and meditation sessions led by internationally acclaimed experts. Meanwhile, Corniche Beach remains a quintessential spot for unwinding, featuring soft sands, clear waters and an array of recreational facilities perfect for families and solo travellers alike.

Abu Dhabi announces an array of new destinations and festivals for 2025

For sports enthusiasts, the 2025 *Formula 1 Grand Prix* at Yas Marina Circuit will once again showcase top-tier racing, coupled with appearances by global superstars. Basketball fans can look forward to the *NBA Abu Dhabi Games* 2025, offering thrilling preseason matchups, interactive events and exclusive access to the NBA District at Manarat Al Saadiyat. Additionally, surfing aficionados can catch the *World Surf League Championship Tour* from February 14 to 16, 2025; held at the world's largest wave pool, where elite surfers will compete for glory.

Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Cultural District is set to elevate its global reputation with the completion of several iconic projects in 2025. The district will soon welcome the Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi, teamLab Phenomena, Zayed National Museum and the highly anticipated Guggenheim Abu Dhabi.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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26•12•2024
THURSDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Tsunami triggers

In 2004, an earthquake in Indian Ocean triggered a tsunami that swamped from Thailand to Africa and killed more than 2,00,000 people

CATASTROPHIC IMPACT

At 7.59 am local time, an undersea earthquake with a magnitude of 9.1 struck off the coast of Sumatra. Over the next seven hours, a tsunami spread across the Indian Ocean

HEIGHTENED EFFECT

In Northern Sumatra, waves reached 167 feet and caused flooding up to five km inland. In Somalia, waves ranged in height from 11 to 31 feet

ORIGINS

VasilyTitov, a tsunami researcher, credits the quake from a megathrust fault, where heavy oceanic plates subduct beneath lighter continental plates

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

PAINTING IT RED WITH FESTIVE CHEER

(From left) Therapist and life coach Avrril Quadros with her pet at a Christmas lunch; Skin & hair specialist, actor and standup comic Dr Anil Abraham celebrates Christmas with his family; Fashion designer Michelle Salins at her home which was decked up for Christmas.

A few days prior to getting embroiled in a controversy over an alleged case of fraud, former cricketer Robin Uthappa spoke to *CE* about his struggles with depression, being a mental health advocate, and his recent move to Dubai

The move to Dubai has been fantastic, but of course, I miss Bengaluru for the many childhood friends and memories I have here. The only thing I don't love about the city is the traffic!"

Robin Uthappa, former cricketer

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

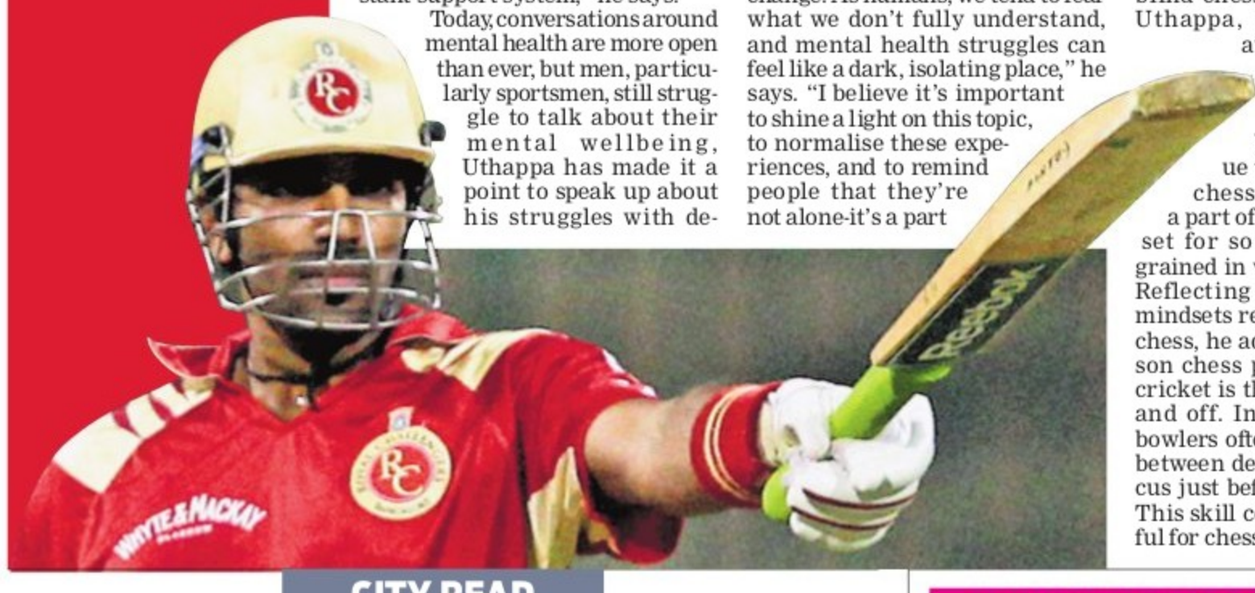
'During my recovery, I saw how mental health is stigmatised'

TWO years after retiring from cricket, Karnataka-born former Indian cricketer, and recent expat to Dubai, **Robin Uthappa**, has been in the news recently over an alleged case of Provident Fund fraud. Uthappa clarified that he did not play an executive role and was not involved in the day-to-day operations. Days before the controversy broke out, Uthappa spoke to *CE* at the SOG Grandmasters Series' South 1 Zonal Finals held at Sheraton Grand, Whitefield.

Since retirement in 2022 and his move to Dubai in 2023, Uthappa has juggled many hats as a cricket commentator, certified life coach, YouTuber, and mental health advocate. Sharing the secret to keeping all the balls in the air and staying motivated, Uthappa says, "The key lies in the fact that everything I do stems from a deep love and passion. Whether it's talking about cricket, playing the game, or coaching as a life coach, these are pursuits I genuinely adore and consider my life's purpose. As a mental health advocate, I'm driven by the goal of breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and empowering people with accurate information. This mission, combined with my passion for everything I do, keeps me inspired every single day." As a father of two young children, family too plays a big role, "Without a doubt, my family is my greatest source of motivation and my constant support system," he says.

Today, conversations around mental health are more open than ever, but men, particularly sportsmen, still struggle to talk about their mental wellbeing, Uthappa has made it a point to speak up about his struggles with depression at the peak of his career. "During my recovery, I saw how deeply it [mental health] is still stigmatised in our society – something that desperately needs to change. As humans, we tend to fear what we don't fully understand, and mental health struggles can feel like a dark, isolating place," he says. "I believe it's important to shine a light on this topic, to normalise these experiences, and to remind people that they're not alone-it's a part of being human," he continues.

The inaugural event of the mind-sports tourney saw players across South India competing in mind sports like chess, online chess, blind chess, and online rummy. Uthappa, who gave away the awards to the top performers, says, "Whether played online or in person, I believe we will continue to thrive in the field of chess because it has been a part of our culture and mindset for so long. It's deeply ingrained in who we are as people." Reflecting on the similarity in mindsets required for cricket and chess, he adds, "One valuable lesson chess players can take from cricket is the ability to switch on and off. In cricket, batters and bowlers often switch off mentally between deliveries and then refocus just before the action begins. This skill could be incredibly useful for chess players."



KNOW YOUR CITY

Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. So it's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Know Your City Quiz'** Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*.

THE RIGHT ANSWERS ARE

1) True; 2) Cubbon Road; 3) Avenue Road

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Tejas Arun; 2) Prathap; VP 3) V Sudhish Pai

ಮೀನಾ
ಬಜಾರ್
Meena
BAZAR
Arts, Crafts, Handlooms and Lifestyle Exhibition
Christmas and New Year Shopping Carnival
13th to 29th December 2024
10.30 AM - 7 PM | 17 Days Exhibition
Venue:
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
Kumara Krupa Road, Near Shivananda Circle, Bengaluru - 01
100+ Stalls | Live Performance
Entry Free
Hulivesha Live
28th Dec 2024 | 5 pm - 6.30 pm
Yakshagana Live
29th Dec 2024 | 5 pm - 6.30 pm
For Details Contact : 6364685716 / 9036658774
HANDLOOMS | HOME DECOR | HANDICRAFTS | CLOTHING | JEWELLERY

CITY READ

School celebrates graduation day

Greenwood High's ISC Class 12 students celebrated their graduation in a heartfelt ceremony, marking the end of their academic journey and the beginning of new possibilities. The event, held at the school's Sarjapur and Bannerghatta campuses, was attended by peers, teachers, and families, all coming together to celebrate the milestone achievements of the 2024-25 batch. The ceremony's theme, 'Tomorrow Needs Us' encouraged the graduates to become changemakers in their future endeavours. The occasion featured inspiring speeches, with Sachin Bansal, co-founder and CEO of Navi Technologies, delivering the keynote address. Known for his pivotal role in Flipkart's success, Bansal shared valuable insights from his entrepreneurial journey, motivating students to pursue their dreams with courage and perseverance. Managing Trustee Niru Agarwal also addressed the graduates, emphasising the importance of integrity.

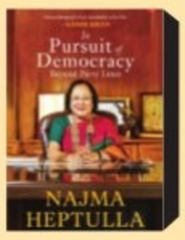
BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy Birthday to our sweet little princess! May your birthday be wonderful and full of surprises & Joys.

Best Wishes From :
Father : RANJITH .V
Mother: MOUNASHREE .V
& Family

SHRESHTA . R
BIRTHDAY DATE : 26/12/2024

BOOK NOOK



In Pursuit of Democracy: Beyond Party Lines

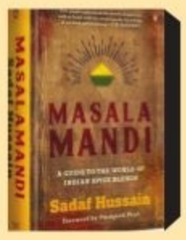
By Najma Heptulla

A chronicle of the author's journey — working with prime ministers from Indira Gandhi to Narendra Modi, she offers readers a ringside view of Indian democracy at play

Joy of Missing Out

By Niharika Nigam

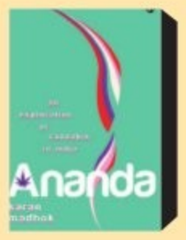
The book explores themes of existentialism, societal expectations, and the transformative power of purpose-driven work, emphasising the longing for belonging and the meaning of home.



Masalamandi

By Sadaf Hussain

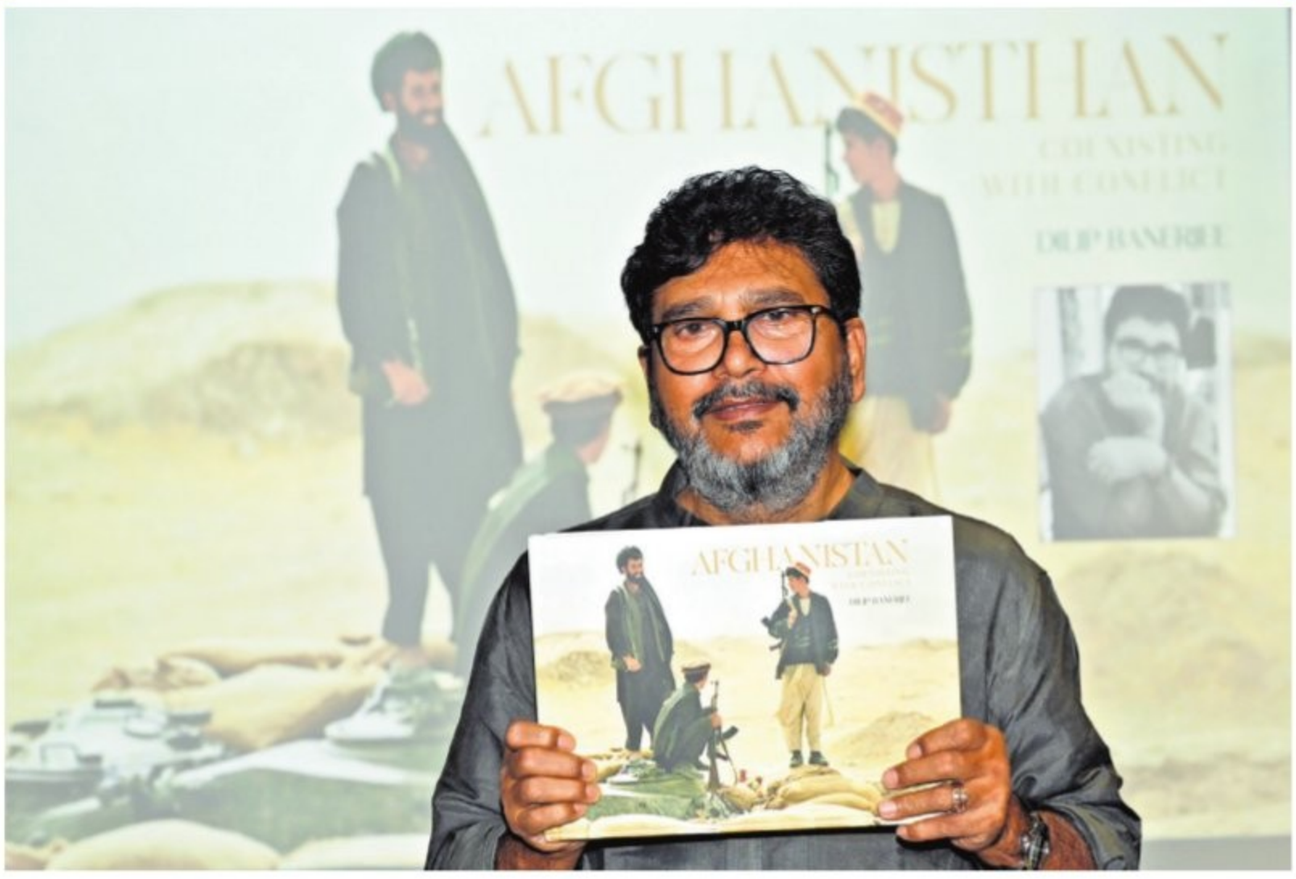
An exploration of the heart and soul of Indian food, a journey through kitchens that range from roadside stalls to royal palaces, each dish telling the story of its region, people, and history.



Ananda: An Exploration of Cannabis in India

By Karan Madhok

The first major study of cannabis in India, is entertaining, and enlightening — it is the perfect introduction to an integral aspect of the country that has often got a bad rap and is imperfectly understood.



THROUGH THE LENS

Photojournalist Dilip Banerjee at a conversation about his collection of war photography, *Afghanistan: Coexisting with Conflict*, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

CHANA WADAI

INGREDIENTS

- **Chickpea:** 1 cup (soak overnight)
- **Besan:** 2 tsp
- **Chilli powder:** 1 tsp
- **Salt:** 1 tsp
- **Oil (for deep fry)**
- **Ginger-garlic paste:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Boil the chickpea in the pressure cooker.
- Then, in a bowl add a little oil, salt, chilli powder, ginger-garlic paste. In it, add the boiled chickpea.
- Then add besan to it and mix them together.
- After the mixture is ready, take small portions of it and deep fry it with few whole garlic cloves.
- Once done transfer it into a bowl and serve hot.

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Festive Feast

Indulge yourself in this culinary celebration of festive treats. Explore a perfect mix of traditional Christmas favourites and creative seasonal delights with family and friends.

WHEN: December 26, 11am onwards
WHERE: BVLD Club, Hosahalli
CALL: 97411 29933

Evening Cricket

Rediscover your passion for cricket with this exciting 10-over cricket match. Experience the fusion of strategy, teamwork and excitement at a match perfect to kick off your weekend.

WHEN: December 26, 7pm
WHERE: Sportwood UWA Turf, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Rock Resonance

Tune in for this rock performance by the band Midnight 13 and enjoy a night full of classic rock music along with lip-smacking food and refreshing cocktails.

WHEN: December 26, 8.30pm
WHERE: Hard Rock Cafe, Ashok Nagar
DETAILS: allevents.in

Theatre Magic

Explore the beauty of theatre with *Kahaniyaan* directed by Devendra Raj Ankur. Join in for this theatrical piece representing the Hindi translations of three Kannada writers exploring the themes of separation, aspiration and death.

WHEN: December 26, 7.30pm **WHERE:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: rangashankara.org

Concert Cheer

Enjoy the comeback of the rock band **Peter Cat Recording Co** with their Good Luck Beta '24 concert celebrating their forthcoming release, BETA. Tune in for a night full of rock with a beautiful fusion of bass, guitar, trumpets and vocals.

WHEN: December 28, 6pm
WHERE: Terraform, Tarahunise
DETAILS: insider.in

Comedy Chronicles

Kick off your holidays with a dose of humour as popular comic **Kunal Kamra** brings his offbeat jokes and impeccable comic timing to the stage. Join in for a quirky, observational take on day-to-day life guaranteeing an evening full of unstoppable laughs.

WHEN: December 27, 5pm
WHERE: Prabhath Kala Sambrama, Hombegowda Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Mic Drop

Showcase your talent with this music and poetry open mic. With soulful poetry or captivating musical renditions, celebrate the beauty of self-expression. **WHEN:** December 28, 6.30pm **WHERE:** The Circular Square , Konanakunte **DETAILS:** allevents.in

MISS-FIT

Wanitha Ashok

The writer is a Fit India Movement Ambassador and celebrity fitness coach

To maintain health as I age, please suggest exercises or habits to do in my 20s.

A well-rounded fitness routine consists of cardio, strength, and flexibility exercises.

- Engage in aerobic activities like running, walking, cycling, or swimming for at least 150 minutes a week.
- Incorporate resistance training to build lean muscle mass and bone density. We start losing muscles at age 30. Conserving this muscle mass will help prevent age-related weight gain.
- To maintain flexibility and range of motion, include yoga, pilates, or stretching exercises. Engage in meditation or deep breathing to manage stress and anxiety.
- Focus on consuming a balanced diet by including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. Aim for at least 8 cups of water a day and get 7-9 hours of sleep every day.
- Avoid smoking and secondhand smoking to reduce your risk of chronic diseases and avoid or consume alcohol in moderation.
- Seek professional help for diet, nutrition, and workouts.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

SALAMBA BHARADVAJASANA

(SUPPORTED BHARADVAJA TWIST POSE)

This pose is a supported variation of the foundational yoga pose, Bharadvajasana (Torso Stretch Pose). It is named to pay homage to the sage Bharadvaja, mentioned in various Hindu Scriptures and Texts. This supported version is designed for relaxation and emotional grounding, relieving tension, stress and fatigue. It becomes restorative, offering a harmonious blend of physical relaxation and emotional calm. It combines the benefits of a spinal twist with the grounding and nurturing qualities of support.

STEPS

- Keep two bolsters handy or grab some cushions or anything similar to use.
- Sit in Dandasana. Position the bolsters horizontally on top of each other at hip level on your right side.
- Turn to your right. Inhale, bend your knees and bring your feet to the left side.
- Ensure both knees are on the ground. Rest the right knee's outer and left knee's inner sides on the ground. Similarly, the right foot's outer edge and the left's inner edge are on ground, pointing the toes to the left. Exhale.
- Twist the torso towards the bolsters and lower your body onto the bolsters and rest your cheek on them. The hands on the ground and the fingers pointing to the right. Ensure your neck is relaxed.
- Stay here for about six breaths or as per the body's capacity. Close your eyes and breath.
- Keep your hips evenly on the floor and relax your shoulders.
- Release and return to Dandasana and remain here for a breath or two. Then counter the stretch on the left side, following the instructions above.
- Finally, relax in Staff Pose Hands Back Knees Bent.

BENEFITS

- Stretches the pelvis slightly and strengthens the lower back.
- Increases the knee and ankle flexibility.
- Works soothingly for the chest, diaphragm, and breath.
- Creates calmness in the heart, lungs, and breathing pattern.
- Brings focus to breathing.
- It also calms the muscles of the body.
- Those who have undergone shoulder surgery or had prolonged illness like jaundice or typhoid can use this as a therapy.
- People facing cervical spondylitis may see improvement.
- Releases the happy hormones (serotonin and endorphins).
- Balances the emotions of an individual.
- Can be done by teenagers, kids, and postnatal women.
- Sports persons can do it after rigorous practice, especially athletes.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with knee, ankle, or hip injuries and surgeries, weak ankles or knees, acute asthma or chronic heart problems, avoid this practice.
- Pregnant women and senior citizens can do this pose.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

ARTCORNER

TIMELESS BAZAAR

Artist Mouna Nagaraju's sketch captures the timeless charm of a bustling shop, where everyday stories weave into the tapestry of an evolving city

SHAPING WELLNESS THROUGH INNOVATION

This year, the spotlight has moved from immunity to gut health, personalised diets, mental well-being, the role of AI in healthcare, and the rising prominence of alternative medicine

REAR VIEW 2024

VENNAPUSALA RAMYA

The impact Covid-19 left on our lives is undeniable. If there's one thing the pandemic taught us, it's that 'immunity is key.' Immunity was – and still is – the secret to withstanding unknown viruses. But taking a look back at 2024, the spotlight has moved from immunity to gut health, personalised diets, mental well-being, the role of AI in healthcare, and the rising prominence of alternative medicine. Let's see what the experts have to say about this.

Gut health

DR NAVEEN POLAVARAPU, SENIOR CONSULTANT GASTROENTEROLOGIST, LIVER SPECIALIST & ADVANCED THERAPEUTIC ENDOSCOPIST & ENDOSONOLOGIST, YASHODA HOSPITALS

In 2024, the growing shift from focusing primarily on immunity to emphasising gut health can be attributed to several key factors. Advances in microbiome research has revealed the profound connection between gut health and overall wellness, showing that the gut influences everything from immune function to mental health. As scientists uncover more about the gut's role in regulating inflammation, metabolism, and even mood, the need to prioritise gut health has become more evident. Additionally, the increasing prevalence of chronic conditions such as autoimmune diseases, gastrointestinal disorders, and mental health challenges has further propelled this shift. Experts now recognise that a balanced gut microbiome can enhance immune responses, protect against infections, and help manage inflammation, making it a cornerstone for long-term health. The recognition of the gut-brain axis, which links gut health to cognitive and emotional well-being, has also played a significant role in this transition. As more people adopt probiotic-rich diets, prebiotic foods, and gut-healing strategies, experts anticipate that prioritising gut health will have lasting impacts, not only boosting immunity but also fostering better mental health, longevity, and resilience against disease. This evolving focus is expected to shape public health strategies and personal wellness approaches in the coming years.

Mental well-being

DR GOUTAMI MADIRAJU, SENIOR CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST, RENOVA CENTURY HOSPITALS

In 2024, there has been a noticeable trend in therapies such as ice bath therapy and others. This is because, in the post-Covid period, there has been a surge in both mental health problems and awareness surrounding mental well-being. The pandemic brought with it social confinement, social distancing, remote work, and added work-related stress, which have all contributed to an increase in psychological and physical issues, as well as post-Covid complications. These therapies, for instance, colour therapy or chromo therapy may help temporarily in case of depression, stress, and medical illnesses like hypertension. Research shows that cold water immersion or cryotherapy may help increase endorphin levels and norepinephrine levels and decrease cortical (stress hormone) levels, which may enhance overall health. As a result, people are increasingly turning to supportive therapies alongside their regular medical treatments, seeking holistic approaches to improve their overall health and well-being.

AI in healthcare

DR VENUGOPAL PAREEK, SR CONSULTANT GI LAPAROSCOPIC, BARIATRIC SURGEON & ROBOTIC SURGEON, CARE HOSPITALS

AI technology in healthcare took centre stage in 2024, driving advancements that revolutionised diagnostic practices. AI-powered tools became indispensable for detecting diseases with unprecedented speed and accuracy, capturing the attention of experts worldwide. Key innovations included AI-driven imaging systems, which significantly improved the early detection of conditions like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and neurological disorders. These tools analyse medical scans with precision, often identifying abnormalities that could be missed by the human eye. Another standout was the integration of wearable devices equipped with AI. These gadgets monitored vital signs in real time, flagging irregularities and enabling proactive management of chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension. Predictive analytics, powered by machine learning, further transformed diagnostics by analysing vast datasets to identify risk factors and potential health issues before symptoms appeared. AI also personalised healthcare by tailoring treatment plans based on genetic profiles, lifestyle, and medical history, improving outcomes and reducing trial-and-error in care. Additionally, virtual health assistants and AI-powered chatbots enhanced patient engagement by providing instant support and reliable health information. By making healthcare more efficient, accessible, and patient-focused, AI in 2024 marked a critical leap forward, reshaping practices and paving the way for a more proactive and personalised future in medicine.

Diet and nutrition

DR H GURU PRASAD, ASSOCIATE CLINICAL DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF DEPARTMENT, CARE HOSPITALS

In 2024, dietary choices took a personalised turn, with the Mediterranean or Atlantic, and other tailored diets gaining widespread popularity. These diets emphasise nutrient-rich, whole foods like fresh vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats, such as olive oil and fish. Their appeal lies in their scientific backing, demonstrating benefits in improving heart health, reducing inflammation, and lowering the risk of chronic diseases. The Atlantic diet, with its focus on seafood and legumes, particularly resonated in regions where sustainable, local eating is valued. Fermented foods like ghee and kanji also experienced a resurgence, celebrated for their role in enhancing gut health. These traditional staples are rich in probiotics, which improve digestion, strengthen immunity, and contribute to overall well-being. Ghee, long revered in Ayurvedic practices, is also recognised for its nutrient density and anti-inflammatory properties. Similarly, kanji, a simple rice-based dish, is gaining attention for its affordability and ability to support a balanced gut microbiome. The rise of these dietary trends reflects a shift toward embracing traditional wisdom while integrating modern nutritional insights. By focusing on personalised and culturally relevant eating habits, people are moving toward a more holistic approach to health and wellness.

NUGGETS

Award to honour nurses announced by hospital

Aster DM Healthcare, one of the leading hospital chains has launched the fourth edition of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award, set to take place in May 2025, coinciding with International Nurses Day. The award, with a prize of ₹2 crore, aims to honour nurses worldwide for their exceptional contributions to healthcare. Registered nurses can apply through www.asterguardians.com, highlighting their work in areas such as patient care, nursing leadership, education, social service, or research & innovation by Feb 10, 2025. Applications will undergo a rigorous evaluation by an independent jury, supported by Ernst & Young LLP (EY), culminating in the selection of 10 finalists by a jury of global healthcare experts.

Audiobook on the intersection of health and tech launched

The audiobook *Reimagining Health: Inspiring Stories of Innovators at the Intersection of Health and Technology* was launched recently. The event, organised by Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled featured notable guests such as Ricky Kej, Grammy-winning composer and environmentalist; Shashi Shekhar Vempati, co-founder of Deep Tech for India Foundation; and Dr Mahantesh GK, founder-trustee of Samarthanam Trust. Authored by Anurag Prabhakar Mairal from Stanford University and Sonali Sundari Shivhare, the book highlights transformative stories of innovators at the nexus of healthcare and technology. Produced with support from Samarthanam, the audiobook ensures broader accessibility, including for individuals with visual impairments.

DISCLAIMER

The information provided on this page is not a substitute for medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the help of a medical professional regarding any health condition.

LISA ANTHONY & MEGHA KURIAN

ARE YOU ANGRY

CE takes a deep dive into anger, a complex and misunderstood emotion that many fail to deal with the right way

COMMON FACTORS

- Unpleasant childhood/ childhood trauma
- Emotional neglect- expressing feelings not allowed in the household
- Cultural/ societal norms

SIGNS

- Repressed anger can manifest both mentally and physically in a person
- Behavioural symptoms may include mood swings, passive-aggressiveness, frequent guilt and shame, people-pleasing and dissociation
- Physical symptoms include unexplained tension in the body, headache, dizziness, trouble with sleeping, burning sensation in the stomach and teeth grinding

HOW TO RELEASE REPRESSED ANGER

- Track anger in your body by identifying physical symptoms
- Practise assertive communication: Learn to state why you're angry and what you need from others in a respectful and straightforward manner
- Therapy: Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Interpersonal Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

5 D'S OF HEALTHY COPING MECHANISM

1. Distance
2. Distract
3. Drink water
4. Deep breathing
5. Discuss

THINK anger and your mind races to some of the harshest moments of your life: blood rushing to your face, heart racing, loud arguments, or an overwhelming desire to smash or destroy things, or even people. Indeed, the general perception of anger seems to be entangled with reckless decisions and the undesirable outcomes that these yield.

This, while true, blindsides the narrative to the other side of this coin of emotion – the plight of those who repress their anger in fear of not effectively communicating what riles them, leaving too many wounds green.

With Anger Awareness Week having been observed recently, *CE* looks at this complex emotion and how to deal with it effectively.

Is anger bad?

If you've watched the movie *Inside Out*, you'd know that Anger is one of the inhabitants – besides Fear, Joy, Sadness and Disgust – in character Riley's mind. It is portrayed as a natural, adaptive response that lets Riley effectively tackle conflicts.

Yet in childhood, many are termed 'bad girl' or 'bad boy', followed with tried-and-tested punishments. Society even has a habit of labelling angry individuals as 'toxic'. What goes unsaid is that this conditioning fosters the repression of a natural emotion and people-pleasing tendencies.

"I don't think anger is negative," says Shweta K, a businesswoman. "Sometimes, it's necessary to let it out. Otherwise, you might express it wrongly or towards someone else." Sumi Thomas, a writer, says, "I listen closely to anger because it highlights what's out of place in my life."

However, she adds that she is wary of expressing her emotions as it may lead to terrible outcomes. "I have witnessed anger manifest as emotional or physical abuse in relationships. That trauma makes me fearful of inflicting the same on others."

Female rage

Indeed, this fear of going overboard with anger stops many from expressing it, especially women. To express anger, they say, is an invitation to be labelled a 'Nagavalli' – the angry and blood-thirsty character from the hit movie *Manichitrathazhu*.

According to Adithya Kishor Kumar, a voice and accent trainer, anger is "splashing paint jars on a canvas and expecting to get the colours correct." It doesn't.

"When I'm angry, I'm incredibly mean. I've often regretted my outbursts. Over time, I've learned to shut down or stay silent instead," admits Shweta.

Coping mechanisms

But like the luminary writer Mark Twain said, "Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured." So people often advise, 'Just express it. Don't keep it within.' But then again, what is the limit? How far is too far?

For Abigail Susan John, a sales consultant, therapy seems to be helping. Earlier, internalising all her frustration and hatred had led her to self-harm. "I've now realised that it was my pent-up anger blowing out of proportion. It was responsible for my low self-esteem and suicidal thoughts. Therapy is helping me cope better," she says.

Musician Akhil Antony prefers simply "walking away" from the scene of conflict. "Past experiences have taught me to remain calm even when I'm triggered," he adds. For Aneesh Mathew, it's about finding an alternative to ground himself. "By listening to music, going for a walk or a bike ride can help," he says.

Identify root cause

While coping is one thing, it's also necessary to identify the root causes of anger. "It could be childhood trauma, emotional neglect, cultural/societal norms, among others," says Dr Arun B Nair, a professor of psychiatry.

"Look for early warning signs like a burning sensation in the stomach, muscle tension, headache, numbness and shivering. Identifying these signs will help one understand their triggers and distance themselves from the space," he adds.

Psychiatrist Dr CJ John concurs, "Expressing anger, when done appropriately, is only normal. But if not, it gets repressed. And no alternative practice or creative outlets can be effective until the person gains insights into their own repressed anger," he says.

Repressed anger does more harm to ourselves than to others. So, let's pledge to befriend anger by using the right tools to calm ourselves down and to deal effectively with this emotion, be it our own or that of others.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) PARVATHI,** Mother of NO.15329261F, HAV, A KUMARAVEL, Residing at H.NO.56, Nehru Nagar, Sirukadu, Vill: Sirugamani West, Po: Pettavaithalai, Tehsil: Srirangam, Dist: Tiruchirappalli, State: TAMIL NADU, PIN: 639112, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) A PARVATHI** And **DOB** from **01.07.1953** to **18.07.1960** Vide Affidavit Dated 19.12.2024 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) MALLAVVA,** Mother of NO.16111515X, HAV, SHIDDARUDHA JAGADALI, Residing at Vill: Paraknahatti, Post: Hattialur, Tehsil: Hukkeri, Dist: Belagavi, State: KARNATAKA, PIN: 591107, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) MALLAVVA JAGADALI,** And **DOB** from **01.07.1963** to **01.01.1968** Vide Affidavit Dated 17.12.2024 Sworn Before Notary MEER HASSAN BANGALORE

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I, SERVICE NO.JC-313956N, SUB, RAMESH S, Residing at Vill: Kovilpatti Town, Po: Kovilpatti, Tehsil: Kovilpatti, Dist: Thoothukudi, State: TAMIL NADU, PIN: 628501, Have Changed My Daughter **(OLD Name) R ANISHA** to **(NEW NAME) ANISHA R,** Vide Affidavit Dated 17.12.2024 Sworn Before Notary S.I. BALAGURU BANGALORE

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HANDLI DHARMAPPA SWAROOP KUMAR,** S/o Dharmappa Handli Kalingappa Residing at- Ward No 11, Behind Krishna Kalyana Mantappa, Gopal Swamy Vathara Hassan, Karanataka - 573201 have changed my name from **DHARMAPPA SWARUPKUMAR** to **HANDLI DHARMAPPA SWAROOP KUMAR** vide affidavit Dated 20/12/2024 Sworn Before Notary By Jalandhara, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(OLD NAME) SRINIVASA BHANDARI,** Father of NO.16113223N HAV, NAVEEN, Residing at Vill: Kavoor, Post: Kunjatha Bail, Tehsil: Mangalore, Dist: Dakshina Kannada, State: KARNATAKA, PIN: 575015, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) SRINIVAS,** And **DOB** from **01.07.1960** to **01.01.1955** Vide Affidavit Dated 17.12.2024 Sworn Before Notary S.I. BALAGURU BANGALORE

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I, **(OLD NAME) RANJANASHIDDARUDHA JAGADALI,** Spouse of NO.16111515X, HAV, SHIDDARUDHA JAGADALI, Residing at Vill: Paraknahatti, Post: Hattialur, Tehsil: Hukkeri, Dist: Belagavi, State: KARNATAKA, PIN: 591107, Have Changed My Name to **(NEW NAME) RANJANA SHIDDARUDHA JAGADALI,** Vide Affidavit Dated 17.12.2024 Sworn Before Notary S.I. BALAGURU BANGALORE

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Thank you for blessings and favours granted. Seek your blessings always.
NARESH, SHOBHA, PUNIT

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KICHCHA SUDEEP IS RIVETING IN A FILM DELIVERING MAXIMUM ENTERTAINMENT

A SHARADHAA

MAX, from Sudeep, arrives after a long silence following his last project, *Vikrant Rona* (2022). The anticipation surrounding this release was deafening, leaving fans to wonder what Sudeep was cooking up next. With a new director, Vijay Karthikeyan, at the helm and the backing of a massive Tamil production house, expectations were sky-high. Moreover, with "Maximum Mass" lingering at every step of the film's making—and right up to the release date—the question remained: Did *Max* redefine the concept of a maximum mass entertainer?

The film kicks off with a political scenario, setting the stage with a tense, atmospheric farmhouse meeting between the ruling party and members of the opposition. Unlike the typical hero introduction sequence you'd expect, we instead get a quirky, lighthearted song, introducing us to politician Gani (Sunil). What follows is a tonal shift as the drama unfolds, marking the beginning of the chaos that ensues.

Arjun Mahakshay, fondly called *Max* (Sudeep), is a police officer with strong principles who has been repeatedly suspended for doing what's right. Assigned to a forgotten suburban police station on the eve of what should have been a routine shift, *Max* quickly finds himself plunged into a nightmare. What begins as a simple task—detaining two unruly children, Veera (Sujith), and Michel (Anirudh Bhat), the sons of powerful politicians—soon spirals into a life-and-death struggle when *Max* receives a late-night call that something has gone terribly wrong. The detainees, once behind bars, are now unresponsive. The clock is ticking, and the truth seems to slip further away with each passing moment.

What follows is a whirlwind of danger, corruption, and political intrigue. *Max* finds himself at the heart of a conspiracy where gangsters, politicians, and even his own colleagues seem to be pulling him into a storm of violence and betrayal. The police station, once a symbol of order, quickly transforms into a battleground. *Max* is no longer just fighting crime; he's fighting to protect his colleagues working the night shift. This is a thriller where every decision has consequences, and no one, not even *Max*, is safe from the spiraling violence.

Enter Roopa (Varalaxmi Sarathkumar), a sharp and determined crime inspector who emerges as a crucial ally for *Max*. Her keen intelligence and ability to read people make her a valuable asset in uncovering the truth. But there's always a lingering question: what is her true motive, and is she truly on *Max*'s side, or does she have her own hidden agenda?

The film takes the audience on a maze game, where every move comes at a cost. There are no pauses for sentimentality—only action and suspense. Though *Max* shares certain similarities with those films, especially with its police station setting and the unfolding of events over a single night, it isn't just another copycat. *Max* stands on its own with its fresh approach and original twists.

Here *Max* is not simply fighting against criminals, but against a system rife with corruption. His battle to protect his colleagues becomes a larger metaphor for the fight between good and evil in a broken world.

Director Vijay Kartikeyan's approach to *Max* is one of precision and urgency. He sticks to the tight timeline of a single night, unraveling backstories swiftly without wasting time on exposition. There's no room for unnecessary emotional beats. What's striking is the absence of typical heroic moments—there are no grand speeches or slow-motion sequences. Instead, punchlines and action drive the narrative forward, creating a relentless momentum that doesn't allow for hesitation or second-guessing.

A particularly intriguing element is the recitation of 'Baa Baa Black Sheep,' which gets a police version, narrated by Sudeep in his baritone voice. This adds a unique atmosphere to the film, giving depth to the otherwise straightforward thriller.

If there's one thing *Max* proves, it's that in a world where nothing is as it seems, survival is a matter of constant vigilance, where every choice could be your last. Sudeep takes charge right from the word go—his portrayal of the police officer carries his signature style, yet departs from his previous roles in this avatar, while maintaining his mass appeal. Despite several actors coming and going, he carries the entire show with his punchlines and high-octane, action-packed presence. Whether it's his intense performance or his signature style—often accompanied by a cigarette and a series of disclaimers—Kichcha Sudeep owns the screen.

Alongside him, a host of actors contribute to the film's energy, but it's the tempo-driven background score by Ajaneesh Loknath that truly elevates the atmosphere, keeping the action front and centre as one of the unsung heroes behind the scenes. Even the songs are well-integrated, with lyrics by Anup Bhandari complementing the action sequences. The Maximum Mass track especially sets a high note for the film.

Despite the entire film unfolding at night, cinematographer Shekhar Chandra manages to create a visual experience that is as captivating as the story itself, ensuring that every scene enhances the tension and drama. A special mention goes to the art director, whose work aligns perfectly with the story.

The film features a host of actors, including Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, who shines with her limited yet pivotal role, and Ilavarasu as Ravanan, whose character is key to the twist of *Max*. Characters like Sukrutha Wagle, who plays Meenakumari, and Samyukta Hornad as Aarti explore the insights and little struggles of female police officers. Ugramm Manju's character as Das gets significant exposure, and Vijay Chendoor, Nagarjun. GG, Sunil, Veena Sunder, Redin Kingsley, Karan Arya, Pramod Shetty, Sharath Lohitashwa, and Anirudh Bhat also contribute, making an impact in the unfolding narrative.

In the end, *Max* is not just about the action—it's a story about moral ambiguity, the corruption of power, and the relentless pursuit of justice. *Max* is a hero who will not be stopped, no matter the cost. The film's climax, which ties together all the threads of political conspiracy, crime, and personal redemption, leaves a lasting impact on the audience.

The final scenes are a celebration of action cinema—fast-paced, intense, and ending on an unexpected note, as *Max* chooses to ride off into the sunrise on a scooter. While *Max* represents mass appeal, the film provides a thrilling experience and leaves room for an open end because *Max* has yet to officially join the duty.

RATING 3.5/5

MAX
Director: Vijay Karthikeyan
Cast: Sudeep, Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Samyukta Hornad, Sukrutha Wagle, Sunil, Ilavarasu, Sujith, Vijay Chendoor, Govinde Gowda, and Nagarjun

Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh's *Housefull 5* wraps shoot

CE FEATURES

AKSHAY Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh and Abhishek Bachchan's *Housefull 5* has wrapped its shoot, the makers said on Tuesday. The comedy-drama is directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala.

It also stars Shreyas Talpade, Dino Morea, Jacqueliene Fernandez, Chitranga Singh, Nargis Fakhri, Sanjay Dutt, Chunky Pandey, Fardeen Khan, Sonam Bajwa, Nana Patekar, Johnny Lever, Soundarya Sharma and Nikitin Dheer.

The makers shared a photo of the ensemble cast, celebrating the film's wrap. In the caption, they wrote, "That's a wrap for *Housefull 5*! A rollercoaster of emotions, filled with laughter, hard work, and unforgettable memories. Get ready to laugh your hearts out on 6th June 2025 in cinemas near you."

The film is set to be released on June 6 next year.

The franchise began with Housefull in 2010 which was helmed by Sajid Khan. Starring Riteish and Akshay, alongside Lara Dutta, Deepika Padukone, and Boman Irani, it revolved around a man who carried bad luck to all his endeavours. The sequel released in 2012 with fresh faces like John Abraham and Asin, and was about four men putting all their efforts, including crooked methods to marry the women of their choices. Housefull 3 and 4 released in 2016 and 2019, respectively.

THIS REMAKE IS A MASS misfire

KARTIK BHARDWAJ

AT a reported budget of over 150 crore, *Baby John*, an almost scene-by-scene remake of Atlee's Theri (2016), desperately tries to give Varun Dhawan a mass makeover. The Southern style is strong with this one as the actor puts on his shades with full Rajini theatrics, stylishly flips gum into his mouth, and sits assuredly on the bonnet of a police jeep—a simple act of crossing his legs portrayed with such cinematic dexterity. He lights up a cigarette only to ultimately burn down the bad guy. But Varun's off-screen personality doesn't amply provide the additional booster this theatrical actioner needs. When he delivers Sumit Arora's dialogue, "Mere jaise bohot aaye honge, but main pehli baar aaya hoon" (Many would have come before me, but I have come for the first time), it is done with the hope of eliciting a hooty response, as with Shah Rukh Khan's fan-favourite line, "Bete ko haath lagane se pehle..." (Before touching the son) from Jawan (2023). But Varun's public appeal isn't propulsive enough to make the dialogue rousing; rather, it falls flat and feels uneven, even forced. As a whole, *Baby John* also leaves you with a similar feeling—disjointed, underwhelmed.

Varun is John D'Silva, a pacifist baker and a doting single father who lives with his young daughter, Khushi, in a Kerala town. They affectionately call each other 'baby'. The relationship lacks chemistry and seems to exist only to monetise the fact that Varun too recently became a father. His character, John, keeps away from violent confrontations and hides his face behind a newspaper when he nears a police station. A misunderstanding leads a bunch of goons to knock on his door one rainy night. He tries to reason, even renders a folded-hands apology, but they still go after his daughter. Big mistake. John ties up his mundu as the dark sky flashes with thunder. Time to get cracking—some bones.

BABY JOHN
Director: Kalees
Cast: Varun Dhawan, Keerthy Suresh, Wamiqa Gabbi, Jackie Shroff, Rajpal Yadav, and Sheeba Chaddha

RATING 2/5

A few years back, this paavam baker was Satya Verma, a supercop who claims to be Gandhian but is more likely to turn the cheek of the other guy and cane it red. After a girl is raped and immolated by local strongman Nanaji's (Jackie Shroff) son, Satya renders vigilante justice on the latter. It doesn't end well for the cop and his family as Nanaji exercises his revenge. Satya goes on the run and takes on an alias to protect his daughter from his turbulent past.

Baby John feels like a feverishly hurried version of Theri. It doesn't let the characters marinate and is too eager to get to the conflict. The build-up is often half-baked, and the action, when it comes, is underwhelming. I expected Varun to dial up his goofy charm with this one, but there seems to be an unseen weight of becoming an action star on his shoulders. He jettisons his personality and seems to be aping his South Indian counterparts. Jackie Shroff, as the nemesis Nanaji, with his frail frame and thinning dreadlocks, looks menacing but never feels like a formidable antagonist. There is a feeble, even absurdist, attempt to give Wamiqa Gabbi's character Tara (Khushi's teacher and John's potential flame in the film) more agency than her counterpart in Theri (played by Amy Jackson), but it proves odd and illogical. Keerthy Suresh gets the stock love-interest role as Satya's wife, whose profession as a doctor never even gets a mention as she starts enjoying marital bliss.

The Kalees directorial takes the route of vigilante violence to solve systemic problems like rape. Satya proclaims to be a policeman who believes in giving "good vibes only" and then goes on to mutilate a sexual offender's private parts. In the garb of giving voice to the voiceless, the film champions mob justice. The narrative is stretched and predictable, and there are only a few exhilarating moments. One of them is Rajpal Yadav's comic-relief character taking up arms. "Comedy is serious business," he says before gunning down a henchman, much to the delight of the audience. In a film with a Salman Khan cameo, it says something when a sidekick taking charge evokes the most jubilation.